



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League's 'Abd-al-Majid on Various Issues

Hopeful of Unified NPT Stance

MM2303151495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
22 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Allam] The 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab League comes at a time when the Arab world is still suffering from the effects of the Gulf crisis. Where were we, where are we now, and what do we want?

['Abd-al-Majid] Without doubt the Gulf crisis in 1990 caused a crack in Arab solidarity—a crack from which we are still suffering. As for what we want, our aim is to clear the air and mend the rift in preparation for restoring solidarity. That is, on the basis of openness, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and renunciation of violence.

['Allam] What has been the response to your reconciliation initiative?

['Abd-al-Majid] I am eager to understand matters in a practical way, because we are discussing matters that are vital to the peoples and the states. I presented the Arab reconciliation idea on 22 March 1993 on the 48th anniversary of the League's establishment. Through this initiative I reviewed the reasons for reconciliation, its principles, and its mechanisms. I presented to the Arab leaders my view and the ideas running through my mind and conscience as regards remedying the Arab situation. So far I have received approval of the reconciliation idea from 14 states. [passage omitted]

['Allam] In your view, can a just peace be established in the region if Israel does not withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines? And would that be sufficient if the mass-destruction weapons are not removed and the Arabism of Jerusalem and the Palestinians' right to return to their homes recognized?

['Abd-al-Majid] The comprehensive and just peace to which we are aspiring as an Arab nation and peoples can only be achieved when Israel commits itself to implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 252, in addition to the land-for-peace principle, hence Israel's subsequent full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan and from southern Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

Without doubt the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region requires that Israel stop building settlements, confiscating land, and making hostile statements. Because all this hampers the peace

march, harms it considerably, and weakens Israel's credibility. This is why I believe that the international community in general and the cosponsors of the peace conference—namely the United States and Russia—in particular should exert pressure on Israel and to compel it to implement all the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict. On the other hand, I would like to point to two very important issues regarding occupied Jerusalem: Our Arab and Islamic states are urged to confront the Israeli scheme aimed at marking in 1996 the 3,000th anniversary of the establishment of the Jewish kingdom and trying to grant a legal-political-propagandistic character to this scheme.

As for the Israeli nuclear threat, it is now one of the most important issues. And my opinion in this connection is that, if Israel is really serious in its desire for peace, it should demonstrate its good intentions and sign the treaty. Its insistence on refusing to do so means that it wants to maintain the strategic imbalance in the region and to impose an unjust and unequal peace based on the possession of a deterrent force—which requires that Arab positions be coordinated. God willing, a unified Arab position in this connection will be crystallized at the League's meeting. [passage omitted]

On Lockerbie, Embassies in Jerusalem

NC2303211095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the Arab is taking a united stance toward the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] that holds the rest of the world to its responsibilities. He confirmed that the Arab countries will discuss this subject during their next conference and will hold discussions with the nonaligned group.

At his news conference at noon today after the 103d session of the Arab League Council concluded, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab draft law on the NPT contains seven articles which show our consensus over not allowing any exceptions. He noted that there should be universal signing of the NPT, adding that any exceptions would upset the balance. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Lockerbie crisis, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League's ministerial council urges the Security Council and United Nations to study this case once again in light of the new evidence that eliminates suspicions regarding Libya's involvement in this case.

He added that this is considered a constructive position which once again proves that Libya was right when it claimed that it was being treated unjustly. The Western countries must take this into consideration. In this regard, he pointed to the seven-member committee meeting regarding the Lockerbie crisis. Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid once again affirmed the ministerial council's

support for the United Arab Emirates' stance on recovering the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa.

The Arab League secretary general said in his statement that the Council condemns the policy of establishing settlements, considering them an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

Answering a question on moving embassies to Jerusalem, 'Abd-al-Majid said that such a move would be null and void, and that the Arab countries will sever relations with every country that decides to move its embassy to Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

On Reconciliation, Israeli Policy

NC2403075895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT
24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has urged Israel to demonstrate goodwill and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Israel's signing of the Treaty will show that it is indeed serious in its peace efforts, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added. He said that Israel's insistence on refusing to sign the Treaty reflects its desire to keep the strategic imbalance in the region and impose an unjust inequitable peace based on the possession of a deterrent force.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the issue requires a united Arab position. He stressed that a unified Arab stance would be crystallized at the Arab League Council's meeting.

Answering a question, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Middle East market will not be an alternative to the Arab League. He said the Arab league represents a group of harmonious states that are linked geographically, historically, and culturally. This is in addition to a noble Arab identity. This confirms that the Arab League mirrors the nation's hopes and dreams. The Arab League's pan-Arab mission takes precedence over its status as a regional organization.

Discussing the ramifications of the Gulf crisis and its effect on Arab reconciliation, he said the Gulf crisis undoubtedly created a rift in Arab solidarity, a rift from which we are still suffering.

He said he hoped the Arab air would clear and the rift would be removed to restore Arab solidarity based on openness and frankness, mutual respect, nonintervention in internal affairs, renunciation of aggression, and agreement on achieving joint Arab interests.

He said: I proposed the idea of Arab reconciliation to Arab kings and presidents on 22 March 1993 on the 48th anniversary of the Arab League and explained the reconciliation's reasons, principles, and mechanism. He added that he has so far received the consent of 14 countries to the reconciliation idea.

On the Alexandria summit's role in rectifying the Arab path, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Alexandria summit, with the weight of three important Arab countries—Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia—marked a very important turning point in the Arab, regional, and world situation. He added that its impact will soon be shown in Arab decisionmaking. Discussing the bases of a comprehensive peace, he said peace will only be achieved through Israel's commitment to implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 252 and through the land-for-peace principle that entails Israel's withdrawal from the entire occupied Syrian Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

He emphasized that establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the region requires Israel to halt the increasing settlement-building measures, confiscation of land, and uttering of hostile statements, because all this hinders and greatly harms the peace process and weakens Israel's credibility.

'Abd-al-Majid called on the peace sponsors, the United States and Russia, and the international community to pressure Israel into implementing every resolution of international legitimacy on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He also called for the need to implement UN resolutions that call for retaining the historical, cultural, and demographic status of Jerusalem. He urged the two countries sponsoring the peace process to assert their commitment to the following: The absence of a discussion of Jerusalem at this stage of the negotiations should not affect the need to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. Foremost among these, he noted, are Security Council Resolution 252, of 1968, and Resolution 478, of 1980, especially regarding the need not to make any unilateral change in the holy city. [passage omitted]

Arab League Passes Resolution on NPT

NC2303151795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League has emphasized that perpetuating the status quo by forcing the Middle Eastern countries, except for Israel, to abide by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] constitutes a serious imbalance that threatens the region's security and stability, which cannot be accepted. The resolution which was passed today at the conclusion of the Arab League Council's 103d session pointed out that the Arab position on the renewal of the NPT is based on the principles and elements outlined in the resolution, particularly the global application of the treaty. The Arab party will seek to intensify consultation and coordination with the nonaligned countries.

The resolution stressed the Arab countries's support for the NPT, its goals, and global application without exceptions because it is the main pillar of the international order and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The

Arab position also backs enhancing the NPT's effectiveness within the framework of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and benefiting from the experience that the international community has acquired in this respect.

The resolution pointed out that security and stability in the Middle East requires the removal of all weapons of mass destruction by making the Middle East a zone free of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in line with the UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 of 1991 and the Security Council Summit statement of 1992.

The resolution noted that the continuation of the Israeli nuclear program outside the international order of nuclear nonproliferation and Israel's refusal to join the NPT and to subject its nuclear installations to the complete safeguards system constitutes a threat to regional security and mars the credibility and global ability of the NPT.

The resolution stressed that the Arab countries' support for the stance of the nonaligned countries that the achievement of the NPT's goals requires a quick arrival at an agreement totally banning nuclear tests and that the nuclear countries should take additional steps toward the removal of nuclear weapons and encouraging the efforts aimed at establishing nuclear free zones and ensuring secure comprehensive, and effective guarantees for the non-nuclear nations against the use or threat to use nuclear weapons.

The resolution called on the Security Council, by virtue of its responsibility for safeguarding world peace and security, to guarantee global application of all provisions on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons without double standards and to take all measures to achieve this goal. It also called for ensuring secure and comprehensive guarantees for the nonnuclear countries against the use or threat to use nuclear weapons. The resolution noted the need to implement the clauses of the NPT by enabling the nonnuclear countries to obtain the nuclear technology for the peaceful uses of atomic energy within the framework of the IAEA safeguards system.

Iraqi Memo Details Western Violation of Airspace
NC2103180795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT
21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat received an Iraqi memorandum today on the U.S. French, and British aircraft violation of the Iraqi airspace between 1st and 8th March.

Iraq's permanent delegate Ambassador Nabil Najm stated that the memorandum includes a table detailing the sorties the three countries' aircraft conducted.

Najm said in a statement today that a total of 572 sorties have been counted. He explained that the American

planes conducted 381 sorties from the Saudi territory and 191 sorties from Kuwait.

He added that these violations targeted densely populated villages, areas, and plantations and caused cracks in homes and abortions in a number of pregnant women.

The Iraqi delegate affirmed that these violations threaten the homeland's peace and inflict harm on Arab relations and interests. He called for distributing the memorandum on the League's member states.

League Says Israel Digging Tunnel Under Shrine
NC2103164795 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Mar 95
p 5

[Report by 'Ali Khamis]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arab League has revealed a horrendous crime secretly committed by Israel. The Arab League noted that Israel had dug a tunnel under the holy Jerusalem shrine [al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock]. The League emphasized that the Israeli crime is no less appalling than the massacre it committed in February 1994 at al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has called on the Security Council to intervene to stop the Israeli violations in Jerusalem and appealed to the United States and Russia to put pressure on Israel to end the digging in the vicinity of the holy Jerusalem shrine.

In a protest to the Security Council, UNESCO has warned that the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock could collapse as a result of the destructive operations Israel is carrying out in secret. UNESCO called for adding the old City of Jerusalem and its wall to the list of endangered world heritage sites. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Mubarak, U.S Delegation in Cairo

Describes Talks With Mubarak

NC2303151495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stated that he asked President Husni Mubarak to convey to President Bill Clinton on behalf of the Palestinian people the problems impeding the peace process so as to overcome them and implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP].

He said that his meeting today with President Mubarak, which he described as good and blessed, precedes the latter's visit to the United States. He added that he briefed President Mubarak on all the details and problems facing the Palestinian Authority [PA] and thanked the president for his firm support for the Palestinian

demands and the importance of implementing the DOP, and the Washington, and Cairo agreements.

He said that they also discussed the importance of strengthening Palestinian-Egyptian economic relations in order to bolster the Palestinian stand against the continuing Israeli blockade of the Palestinians.

On his meeting today with the U.S. Foreign Relations Council delegation led by Henry Sigman, the Palestinian president said that they discussed the means to back the PA economically. He added that he had presented to the delegation a number of projects that the PA intends to carry out, so that these can be discussed with the concerned parties and participation in them allocated. He said that another meeting will be held in Washington at the end of April to follow up on the implementation of these projects.

He said that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are going through a very critical stage and that the meticulous implementation of the agreements reached by the Palestinian and Israeli sides is the only way out of this situation. He then underlined the need for both sides to overcome the obstacles so as to implement their agreement.

Discusses Aid With U.S. Delegation

*JN2303204395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1830 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Arafat met in Cairo today with a delegation from the U.S. Foreign Relations Council—a nongovernmental organization that includes U.S. and Middle East businessmen.

The president discussed with the delegation ways to expedite the promised international aid to the self-rule areas. The president said the U.S. Foreign Relations Council, as a consultative group for the National Authority, has promised to make efforts and contribute actively toward expediting international aid to the authority.

The president said: We told them about our priorities regarding the projects we want to be implemented quickly so they can discuss them with the donor states.

For his part, Henry Sigman, head of the delegation, said the purpose of the delegation's visit is to discuss the aid promised by the donor states to the National Authority in order to begin implementing projects to develop these areas and improve the living conditions of the citizens.

Returns From Visit; Radio Reports Remarks

*JN2303202295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1830 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland this evening following a short visit to Cairo, during which he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The two presidents this morning held a bilateral session that dealt with the latest developments in the peace process, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track. They were later joined by the members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

President 'Arafat said he asked President Mubarak to speak to U.S. President Bill Clinton—during his upcoming visit to the United States—in the name of the Palestinian people and tell him about the difficulties facing the peace process so that these difficulties may be overcome and the Declaration of Principles agreement can be implemented.

President 'Arafat said he had a good meeting with President Mubarak. He said he briefed President Mubarak on the difficulties facing the National Authority. He also said he and President Mubarak discussed ways to bolster Palestinian-Egyptian economic relations in light of the siege imposed on the Palestinian people.

President 'Arafat further said the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations are going through a very critical stage, stressing that there must be an honest and accurate implementation of what was agreed upon, nine months after the beginning of the implementation of the first stage of the Declaration of Principles agreement.

President 'Arafat asked: How can the Palestinian people be deprived of enjoying democracy in a world that brags about democracy?

'Arafat Notes Gore Visit in Jericho Address

*JN2403111195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0843 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, in Jericho on 24 March—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] And say: Work righteousness; soon will God observe your work, and His apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse].

Brothers, my beloved one, my family, all of my family, my people, all of my people: As I stand among you today, I feel that the march, which we described as the long march, is now approaching the end of the tunnel. [applause and chants]

Yes, the safe passage... [pauses] They see the day indeed as a far-off event, but we see it as being quiet near. [Koranic verse] Yes, I see at the end of the tunnel the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. [chants]

You know that my headquarters was supposed to be here. [chants] However, very regrettably, there was an Israeli attempt, and I do not wish to call it a conspiracy, to prevent us from [words indistinct]. Yes, and that is why they have not opened the safe passage. When I came here last time, I had to ask my brother President Mubarak to give me two helicopters to fly to here. However, I tell them that regardless of what they do,

regardless of how hard they try to bargain, and regardless of how hard they try to conspire to divide the Palestinian people, [words indistinct]. They may be able to separate us in body, but not in mind or determination.

When we signed peace, we signed the peace of the brave. You must know that the peace of the brave is between two parties. Therefore, I tell them that they should abide by what both sides have agreed to. They should withdraw to the agreed upon positions in the West Bank so Palestinian elections can begin. [chants]

You know that in March 1968, I was only a few kilometers away from you, on the other side of the River Jordan in al-Karamah. [chants and words indistinct] Yes, brothers, I have told you, and I will always say: They see the day indeed as a far-off event, but we see it as being quiet near. [Koranic verse] The day before yesterday, we celebrated the anniversary of the al-Karamah battle, which you saw from Jericho and in which your sons stood to face the army that defeated all the Arab armies. But the Palestinian revolutionary and soldier stood to face that army. After that, confrontations continued because we fight with courage. Then the young Palestinian boys and girls came to give the entire world the most splendid example of challenge; the Palestinian intifadah. We challenged them with the stone-throwing boys and girls, whom I called the new generals.

Brothers, when we fought and launched the intifadah, we fought with courage and triumphed with an iron will, and when we made peace, we did so with courage. Therefore, we called this peace the peace of the brave. Peace must be demonstrated by both parties and courage must be demonstrated by both parties. (?They have) maneuvered and are maneuvering in order not to implement what we agreed on. Yes, I tell them that the implementation of the agreement must continue. What Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] signed in Oslo, what Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] signed in Washington, and what I signed in Cairo must be implemented. They must all know that the peace of the brave means that we fight with courage and make peace with courage. This, brothers, is the lesson that we were taught by Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and prayers be upon him. When he made peace in al-Hudaybiyah, he did so with courage. We also fight with courage and make peace with courage.

No one can choose our path for us. Not the North, nor the South, not the left, nor the right, not the East, nor the West, not this or that camp can tell me what to do. It is the smallest Palestinian child in this gathering who can tell me what to do. [chants and applause]

O brothers, o beloved ones: Our path is difficult and long. However, we stand here today, in Jericho, on the first liberated Palestinian land. In 1974, the Palestine National Council called for establishing the Palestinian national authority on the first liberated Palestinian land. [chants] We will reach Jerusalem, God willing. They see the day indeed as a far-off event, but we see it as being quiet near. [Koranic verse]

Today, I proudly greet our prisoners and detainees, led by my brother and companion Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

From here, from Jericho, I greet Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah, Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Jala, Hebron, and Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. [applause] Yes, brothers, Jerusalem—the first qiblah, the third holiest shrine, the place from where Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, made his night journey to heaven, and the nativity of Jesus, peace be upon him—the capital of state of Palestine, whether they like it or not. And those who do not like it can drink the sea of Gaza. [Arafat speech indistinct for under a minute while radio correspondent repeated what 'Arafat had said] [Arafat in progress] ... on the displaced that the date of the old [1948] refugees, and I am one of them, will not exceed the beginning of the third year, in accordance with the accord. Is this not so, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']? [laughter and applause]

Brothers: Today, I will welcome, in your name, U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and, before he arrives, I will send him a message that this Palestinian people are the people of miracles, the people of determination. At the same time, they are friendly people who seek friendship and a genuine, not a false peace. We did not sign a peace of submission, we signed a peace of the brave. Therefore, I will say to him, on your behalf, that yes, we want to implement that on which we have agreed. In his capacity as one of the sponsors, he is dutybound to continue to help us implement the agreement until we reach Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. Therefore, brothers, I say to U.S. Vice President Al Gore: You will be welcome in the first liberated Palestinian land. You will be welcome, you will be welcome, you will be welcome in the most ancient city and civilization in the world, in Jericho. You will be welcome in Jericho. You will be welcome in Jericho.

And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs, to establish a firm place. [Koranic verse]

Truly God loves those who fight in His cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse] National unity, national unity, and national unity.

Hamas Activists Arrested 'in Advance of' Gore Visit

TA2403080095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qol Yisra'el's reporter says that two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists have been arrested in Jericho. Palestinian sources said the two were arrested in advance of the arrivals of U.S. Vice President Al Gore and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat will be in Jericho tomorrow as well.

'Arafat Warns of 'Rebellion of the Hungry'

TA2303060795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 March 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has again criticized the Israeli closure of the territories. 'Arafat warns that if it is not lifted, there will be a rebellion of the hungry in the Gaza Strip. He made this statement at a meeting with left-wing representatives.

Meretz party secretary Zehava Gal'on said that Netzarim in the Gaza Strip and Qiryat Arba' next to Hebron should be evacuated immediately. MAPAM [United Workers Party, a Meretz component] secretary Victor Balit said there was no choice but to establish a Palestinian state in the territories.

Hamas Spokesman Reviews APF Damascus Meeting

JN2403121295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—QUDS PRESS—Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, media spokesman of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has told QUDS PRESS that a meeting of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] was held in Damascus on Monday and Tuesday [20 and 21 March] at the level of leaders of the ten factions [Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process]. He said the meeting "sought to activate the alliance."

Ghawshah added that "the meeting was important", noting that "it followed a relatively long interruption." He said the meeting dealt with the latest developments on the Palestinian scene, including "the limited self-rule authority's resumption of negotiations, which the conferees considered a negative decision." He stressed that "the Oslo and subsequent agreements reached a deadlock because of their contents." He described the Oslo agreement as "a conspiracy against the Palestinian people's land, destiny, and future."

The Palestinian official said that a statement in the name of the opposition Palestinian forces will be issued shortly. He said the latest meeting in Damascus led to an agreement "on the need to continue holding periodic meetings of the alliance forces."

He said: "A study is being prepared to propose appropriate activities to confront the Zionist occupation everywhere and to face up to the increasing violations and repression committed by the Palestinian Authority, especially the arrests of Palestinian activists, the attempts to confiscate weapons, and the blocking of popular activities in the self-rule areas."

Ghawshah added that the meeting discussed the issue of the "Palestinian Grouping" which was announced in the city of Nablus last month under the leadership of Bassam al-Shak'ah. He said: "Hamas and some other factions believe that the grouping was created hastily

without any consultation with these factions and without briefing the APF on the grouping's statute. Such consultation was needed to ensure that the grouping conforms to the basic tasks of the opposition factions." However, he added that "an agreement was reached regarding this issue."

Qaddumi To Go to Damascus To Meet With Opposition

TA2303110695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A PLO delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi will travel to Damascus next week for a meeting with Palestinian opposition representatives within the framework of the PLO's conciliation efforts, our correspondent has learned from PLO sources.

Another Palestinian Authority delegation will meet in Gaza and Jericho with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad representatives within the framework of the same efforts.

The conciliation plans had been formulated by the PLO Executive Committee at its meeting in Tunis last week.

Poll Reports 'Highest' Backing for Peace

TA2403125895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Support for the peace process among Palestinians has reached its highest level since the signing of the Oslo agreement, according to a poll published by a Palestinian research institute yesterday.

The poll, conducted by the Nablus-based Center for Palestinian Research and Studies [CPRS], showed that 67 percent support continuing negotiations, higher than the 64 percent that supported them in September 1993 and far higher than the 50 percent or less in recent months.

Asked to evaluate the performance of the Palestinian Authority, 37 percent gave it a excellent or fair rating, compared with 30 percent three months ago.

Yasir 'Arafat continued to increase his support among the Palestinian electorate, with 56.5 percent giving him their vote for "president" over other candidates, compared with 44 percent, 49 percent, and 53 percent, respectively in each of the previous three months.

Although 52 percent rejected Israel's Janin-first idea—giving the Palestinians administrative control of Janin with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment—32.4 percent supported it.

The growing support for the peace process was attributed by CPRS director Khalil al-Shaqqi to the decrease in Palestinian violence and the consequent decrease in

Israeli countermeasures. The closure was eased slightly and a July 1 target date was set for completion of interim negotiations.

Increasing support for the political process, however, did not coincide with any feeling of greater economic well-being. The poll showed that 53 percent of respondents felt their economic situation had deteriorated, although the poll also indicated that unemployment had decreased from around 50 percent to 38 percent.

Asking for the second consecutive month about support for "armed attacks against Israeli targets," the poll showed 33 percent support attacks and 46 percent oppose them, exactly reversing the figures of a month ago. The remainder had no opinion.

Somewhat surprisingly, the more educated the respondent was, the more likely he was to support violence against Israelis. While 26 percent of those with less than nine years education supported attacks, 47 percent of university graduates supported violence.

Residents of Hebron were the most dissatisfied economically, with 66 percent saying their economic well-being had declined. Hebron also showed a higher level of support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad (21 percent) than any other area, including the Gaza Strip.

The poll was conducted between March 15 to 18 among 1,296 people. The margin of error was set at 3 percent.

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Violence, Israel, NPT

NC2303214495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has announced that the joint Algerian-Egyptian committee will meet in Algeria on 10 April under the chairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two countries to discuss a number of joint projects and boost coordination in all areas.

At a news conference held in Cairo at noon today, he said that the Arab Maghreb Union summit will be held in Algiers in November. He pointed out that the leaders of the five Maghreb countries—Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Mauritania—will discuss Egypt's request to join the Union. [passage omitted]

On the current situation in Algeria, the Algerian foreign minister said that the presidential elections called for by President Liamine Zeroual will take place in the second half of this year. He stressed that the elections will mark a true beginning of political pluralism in the country and of an end to the crisis in Algeria.

He asserted that the security situation is improving, although some terrorist incidents still occur in which innocent civilian citizens are killed.

He said political dialogue in Algeria is open to all political forces that abide by legitimacy and the Constitution.

He said violence in Algeria has national roots as well as foreign foundations. He stressed that the Algerian people reject the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism under the cover of religion.

Noting that many Arab countries have been suffering from this phenomenon since the 70's, he urged common Arab action to undermine it.

Dembri said there is information about sources of arms smuggling from abroad to the armed groups in Algeria. He said foreign attempts to finance armed groups require that all Arab and Islamic countries take a comprehensive view of curbing violence and terrorism.

The Algerian foreign minister denied reports that he had met with the Israeli deputy foreign minister during his current visit to Egypt. He stressed that Algeria has so far had no contacts or relations with Israel.

He said rumors appear from time to time to embarrass Algeria. He stressed that his country will hold no contacts with Israel except within the framework of a collective and comprehensive Arab solution to the Middle East problem.

On his country's position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], he said that in 1991 Algeria

demanding that Israel sign the treaty in order to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, but some Arab countries opposed Algeria at that time.

Claims Security Situation Improving

LD2303205095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Italicized passages are recorded] txt

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of the Arab League Council proceedings, our foreign minister, Mohamed Salah Dembri, held a news conference in Cairo today, which was dominated by questions on the security situation in Algeria. Over to Nacera Mezout:

[Mezout] The Algerian foreign minister held a news conference at the Algerian ambassador's residence in Cairo this afternoon. The journalists' questions were centered mainly on the situation in Algeria, and on the measures taken to end the crisis in the country.

[Dembri] *The security situation is improving day by day. The new phenomenon in Algeria is that these armed groups are now changing their activities by committing terrorist acts, such as using booby-trapped cars, and so on. However, if we look at the security situation on the whole, there is an improvement in Algeria. God willing, there will be further improvement in the near future.*

However, all the measures have now been taken to hold presidential elections in an acceptable climate, and with a helping hand from the entire political class in Algeria.

[Mezout] The foreign minister talked about the invitation to a dialogue that the state recently sent out to the political parties, and also about the conditions in which the scheduled presidential elections are being prepared.

[Dembri] *Dialogue in Algeria is a sufficient objective [sentence as heard]. Maybe our policy, with regard to communication and information, is lacking or poor. However, dialogue has been open since January 1994. Take the parties that did not attend the meeting, namely the National Conference on National Consensus: Who do you think got in touch with them first? The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, of course.*

What were the proposals he made in August 1994? These matters are public knowledge and we can discuss them with any foreign or Arab observer who pays attention to the political affairs in Algeria. The national dialogue was open then with no conditions and it remains open to this day, but there are now political programs over which we have to agree, namely to hold presidential elections through an amendment of the electoral law and define future stages.

[Mezout] The Algerian people, Mr. Dembri said, is aware of the difficult period through which the country is going and they have demonstrated their rejection of violence and terrorism in huge marches throughout the country.

Regarding the Rome meeting attended by some political figures, the foreign minister said that the meeting did not reflect the views of the Algerians who have condemned it. He added:

[Dembri] *In moments of pessimism, there always emanates from the depth of the people something to save the nation and society.*

[Mezout] The phenomenon of terrorism is not limited to Algeria, but it is a threat facing the entire Islamic world. The matter needs to be tackled with political intelligence.

[Dembri] *Regarding extremism and terrorism under the guise of religion, this in fact requires once again an analysis and an explanation in the light of all the latest developments on the issue throughout the Arab and Islamic world.*

Opposition Leader on Zeroual's Call for Dialogue

NC2303215495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview with the MBC today, Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian Ennahda Movement, stressed that the British Foreign Office considers that dialogue is the ideal solution to extricate Algeria from its current crisis. He said that Algerian President Liamine Zeroual's call for consultations with the political parties is not new and that what counts is that the talks must be serious in order to put an end to the acts of violence. Our correspondent Hasan Zaytun reports:

[Begin recording] [Zaytun] The Algerian political parties that concluded the national agreement in Rome have not yet turned down President Zeroual's call for talks on all aspects of the presidential elections. Mustafa Bouhatef, spokesman of the Socialist Forces Front, led by Ait Ahmed Hocine, has announced the Front's agreement to meet with the Algerian president to put forward their suggestions of how to emerge from the crisis.

Ennahda Movement Leader Abdallah Djaballah, in an exclusive interview with the MBC, said:

[Djaballah] We will study the issue after my return, God willing, and adopt the appropriate stance. Anyway, whether we participate in the meeting or boycott it, our stance on the way the crisis is being addressed is well known and firm.

[Zaytun] Would you define your stance on the consultations that President Zeroual wants to hold? It seems the talks relate to the holding of the presidential elections. In principle, are you for or against the presidential elections?

[Djaballah] We are for the elections and can never oppose them, because we believe that the people are the source of political power—that is, they have the right to choose their rulers and representatives and to watch

them and call them to account when necessary. We believe that the authorities' legitimacy depends on the people's choice of them. The British stance, as we have learned, supports holding a dialogue to address the crisis. The British officials believe that the Algerian crisis is complicated and cannot be settled through force, but through talks and that it is in the interest of the Algerian people to hold talks. [end recording]

Socialists To Discuss Elections With Zeroual

LD2303210295 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the Socialist Forces Front of Hocine Ait Ahmed is about to accept President Zeroual's invitation to discuss the organisation of presidential elections. He will apparently make proposals to put an end to the crisis. The news was announced by Moustapha Bouhadeb, one of the party's leaders, who was interviewed by the daily LA TRIBUNE.

Embassy in Paris Denies Report on Arms Deal

LD2303221595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian Embassy in Paris has categorically refuted claims by the French weekly L'EXPRESS implicating Algeria in the arms deal between France and Iran.

The statement insisted: The embassy categorically denies such rumors whose aim is to harm the Algerian state and one of its senior officials.

The statement added, furthermore, that the Algerian Embassy in Paris was ordered by the Algerian authorities to immediately begin a lawsuit against L'EXPRESS on this matter.

Son of War Hero, 2 Others Killed by 'Terrorists'

LD2303133795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the security services today said that three armed terrorists assassinated the eldest son of the martyr Mostefa Ben Boulaid, Abdelouahab, aged 50, along with his companion, Mr. Benkaouha Mohamed, aged 77. This attack occurred at the intersection of Boulerbah, between Kadiria and Aoumar station, in Bouira Province.

The security services also announced that they had discovered the body of a 52 year-old woman, mother of four children, yesterday in a place called Chbacheb, in the municipality of Khemis El Khechna, Boumerdes Province.

The statement added that the victim had been abducted from her home by armed terrorists.

Daily Previews Possible Cabinet Reshuffle*MM2203124295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Mar 95 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Cabinet Reshuffle in Algeria Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has condemned the killing of women and young girls and dissociated itself from that. This came in a statement issued yesterday by Abou Osamah, chairman of the Information Subcommittee of the FIS Executive Committee abroad. The statement accused "the intelligence services of carrying out such operations and falsely attributing them to the armed Islamic groups." The statement said: "In loyalty to its principles and commitment to the Shari'ah, FIS denounces, condemns, and denies responsibility for all criminal acts harming women, young girls, elderly people, and children."

Meanwhile, there is renewed talk in the Algerian capital about a major cabinet reshuffle mainly targeting Interior Minister Meziane-Cherif who infuriated President Zeroual with his statements about the existence of a plan to allow the formation of militias for self-defense against the fundamentalist armed groups. Meziane-Cherif had to deny these statements on President Zeroual's orders although he had made them to a group of foreign reporters including one from the British paper THE INDEPENDENT which published these statements. Various sources, however, have confirmed that the armed militias are no longer just an idea but have entered the phase of implementation and that the regime's organs have assigned retired officers to supervise them in return for material privileges and benefits. The interior minister had enhanced his influence last fall when he organized marches of support for President Zeroual and denunciation of the opposition parties which participated in the Sant' Egidio meetings. Some people even formed the impression that the interior minister was highly necessary for the organization of the presidential elections, but then President Zeroual discovered that the interior minister was becoming a burden to the regime and that he did not do him any service with the demonstrations he had organized. President Zeroual has intimated to more than one visitor in the past weeks that he will not himself be a candidate in the elections.

Some sources speak of the possibility of expanding the cabinet reshuffle to include the prime minister and say that friends of Foreign Minister Salah Dembri are spreading rumors about his imminent appointment as prime minister. [passage omitted]

Egypt**Paper Denounces U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Request***NC2403090895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has denounced the request by 93 percent

of U.S. Senate members to the U.S. Government to adopt measures to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In its editorial today, the paper asserts that Jerusalem is no ordinary city, but a city associated with all God-given religions. It adds that the region in which Jerusalem lies has been the cradle of all religions for thousands of years and has had a prominent historical role in these religions.

The paper notes that in view of Jerusalem's status and nature, every country refused to recognize it as Israel's capital. Despite the so-called special relations between them and the Jewish state, these countries, including the United States, also refused to endorse Israel's attempts and insistence on shifting its capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which concerns the three religions.

The paper says several U.S. officials, from past and present U.S. Administrations, have declared that the future of Jerusalem, like other Palestinian cities, will be determined only through official talks involving all the parties.

The paper adds that the status of Jerusalem officially remains unchanged, despite attempts by Israeli governments over the years to impart a Jewish character to the city and seize land and property owned by Arab Palestinians by illegal means.

Move Could 'Torpedo' Peace Process*NC2303072595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says the request the U.S. Senate addressed to the U.S. Government to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is surprising and perplexing, because the United States is the only sponsor of the peace talks between Israel and the Arab countries.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM adds that the United States knows the seriousness of embarking on such steps, which are bound to torpedo the advantages gained through the negotiations. The paper questions the importance of negotiations if some influential U.S. circles decide to give Jerusalem to the Israelis. AL-AHRAM asks: Do such steps encourage Israel to hold serious negotiations or will these steps make Israel confident of obtaining U.S. support?

AL-AHRAM stresses that the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will torpedo and uproot the peace process and will threaten every agreement signed between Arab states and Israel.

Mubarak Meeting With Syria's al-Shar' Detailed*JN2303203195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Cairo this morning in the presence of Egyptian

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints and discussed the Arab situation and latest developments in the peace process. Moreover, the talks dealt with bilateral relations and means to activate and reinforce these relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Egypt.

In statements to reporters who assembled in front of the Presidential Palace, Faruq al-Shar' said he took the opportunity of his meeting with President Mubarak to convey to him the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad. President Mubarak asked al-Shar' to convey his best wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar' added: During the meeting, we discussed the general Arab situation, the peace process, deepening and activating relations, as well as coordination between the two countries. We also discussed various bilateral issues.

Asked about the Washington negotiations, the foreign minister said: We cannot be hasty in judging the outcome of the talks now. However, we hope that positive results will emerge. I can say that we are serious about the peace process and we want to see real progress and positive results. He noted that the Syrian ambassador in Washington is fully authorized to reflect the Syrian desire to achieve progress in the peace process.

Al-Shar' hoped that the next few months would witness progress. He stated that it is Israel that is procrastinating over achieving real progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks.

Asked about reports that the Arab League Council is about to adopt a resolution on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], al-Shar' replied: During the Arab League Council session, we discussed the issue of the treaty, which will be discussed at the UN headquarters in New York next month. We have reached a unified Arab position. This position stresses that the treaty must include all parties and must not exclude Israel. Al-Shar' also said that if the treaty includes every country, it will become more effective and close the loopholes in it that have led to nuclear proliferation in some countries.

The foreign minister added: We have stressed the importance of the UN Security Council and its responsibility for making every country join the treaty, proceeding from the principle that the Security Council is concerned with international security and peace, and that making exceptions for any state to possess nuclear weapons especially in a sensitive region like the Middle East, totally contradicts with the prerogatives of the Security Council.

He added that contacts are being made by some UN Security Council members and many other countries to pressure Israel into joining the Treaty without any conditions. Al-Shar' said: We fear that Israel will not respond to these U.S. efforts, in particular, which call on every country to join the treaty. Hence, he added, the United States bears a special responsibility in its

capacity as a permanent Security Council member. It can make signing and joining this treaty a binding issue in order to maintain international peace and security.

On whether there is any prospect of a unified Arab position in terms of voting on the NPT's extension if Israel still refuses to join the treaty, al-Shar' said: We are working toward that end and hope there will be an Arab commitment to the stance which the Arab League Council will adopt. He added: Syria's stance is clear. We link our joining the treaty to Israel's joining this treaty. We hope that the other Arab countries and the non-aligned countries to adopt such a stance. We believe this treaty's importance lies in its comprehensive and international character. No country must be excluded in order to maintain international security and peace.

'Arafat Meets Mubarak, Departs Cairo

NC2303173395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this afternoon after a visit to Egypt of some hours during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

To see him off at the airport was Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and the staff of the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo.

'Abbas Departs for Tunis

NC2303141895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, left Cairo this afternoon for Tunis after a two-day visit to Egypt. In Cairo he held talks with Egyptian officials on the peace process in the region.

New Envoy to Arab League Appointed

NC1803165095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT
18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Ambassador Mahmud Murtada has been appointed Egypt's permanent envoy to the Arab League in place of Ambassador Nu'man Jalal who has been appointed Egypt's ambassador to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Rahman Interviewed in New York Prison

NC1703194195 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 95

["Excerpts" of interview with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman by Rula Amin in his "cell in one of New York's prisons" on 17 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Amin] In a room in one of New York's prisons, we met Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman,

who is doing a television interview for the first time since his arrest 20 months earlier. Shaykh 'Umar, you are accused of being a general, leading an army, and planning to launch a terrorist war on U.S. cities.

[Abd-al-Rahman] Thanks be to God and His prayer and peace be on His messenger. I am no more than one of the Islamic ulemas. I say the truth as my religion instructs me and as my God Almighty orders me. I have no armies, followers, or any of the claims being made against me. There is no proof to back up the U.S. Administration's accusations that there is a plot against the United States and so on. There is absolutely no evidence to all their allegations.

[Amin] But there are eyewitnesses who say that they asked you and that you issued them orders. What do you think of these eyewitnesses, such as 'Imad Salim and Siddiq Siddiq?

[Abd-al-Rahman] Regarding Siddiq, hundreds of tapes refute and disprove him. As to 'Imad Salim, when asked by the public prosecutor when he testified for the first time, he proved that he lied in many things. When the case was opened, the public prosecutor showed that 'Imad Salim would prove to be a liar before the jury. He lies too much.

[Amin] Shaykh 'Umar, you appear to be confident of your innocence. Do you have confidence in U.S. justice? Do you believe that you will have a fair trial?

[Abd-al-Rahman] I have confidence in God and not in U.S. justice or anyone else. I believe that there is a bias in many things against the defense lawyers. There is a bias in favor of the administration or the public prosecutor. I believe that we are not getting a fair trial because of the way we are treated here in prison. We are treated as if we are the most hardened criminal.

[Amin] Our talk with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman has gone on too long.

[Abd-al-Rahman] What is the matter? Have you a specified time or what?

[Amin] It is the judge who set us the time.

[Abd-al-Rahman] Why?

[Unidentified person attending the interview] Not us, [word indistinct]. There is a waiting line for interviews today.

[Abd-al-Rahman] Wait a little. This MBC Television ought to have the longest time.

Assails Solitary Confinement

NC1703215295 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Mar 95

[Interview with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman by Rula Amin in his "cell in one of New York's prisons" on 17 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Amin] This is the first time I have heard that you are not being treated well in prison. What are you complaining of?

[Abd-al-Rahman] I am in solitary confinement. When I need my shoes, my clothes, I go get them myself. How can this happen? How can I be held in a solitary cell? This is punishment. What did I do to get this punishment? No ruling has been issued against me so far. Was there a ruling while I was sleeping? [passage omitted]

'Militants' Shoot, Badly Wound 3 Policemen

NC2403081895 Paris AFP in English 0045 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, March 24 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic militants shot and badly wounded three policemen in the al-Minya region of southern Egypt late on Thursday [23 March], police said.

The three were attacked in the town of Bani Mazar as they stood guard outside a building where officers of the state security police were quartered, the sources said.

The three attackers fled after stealing the policemen's guns, the police said.

Libya

Paper Assails U.S. Encouragement of 'Piracy'

LD2303095595 Tripoli JANA in English 0820 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Rabia 23 Mar, JANA—The American newspaper U.S. TODAY revealed that the American Government has allocated 4 million dollars, from tax payers money, as a reward for encouraging piracy and the practice of violence and individual terrorism.

The newspaper revealed that this huge amount will seduce American and European criminal gangs to undertake a terrorist piracy operation to kidnap the two Libyan nationals suspected in the Lockerbie incident.

The newspaper said that the American Government has decided to escalate its misleading media campaign by the application of the resources of electronic computer networks and recycling lies in this respect.

Commenting on this report the newspaper AL SHAMS, published today, wrote an article deriding this criminal escalation followed by America which would include gangs and individuals, following its established capabilities in practicing state sponsored terrorism.

The AL SHAMS said: It appears as if the world has lost its reason and logic. That is America which was established on the skulls of red indians and had been engaged in forming gangs here and there, and sending its troops to occupy the nations and practice pressures, harassment, terrorism, and starvation etc.

The AL SHAMS questioned why this international legal dispute, based on the Montreal Convention, has been turned into a horror film, Rambo style, where all rational concepts and all logic, values and principles disappear to be substituted by terror, killings and so-forth, including all terminology of barbarism and viciousness.

The paper said that this escalation confirm the lack of morality and the lack of decency which is compounded by the policy of deception and distortion. The newspaper added that there is no reasonable American who would agree to this non-sense talk which means that the government of Washington is distancing itself from international laws and conventions and is resorting to cheap media excitement which is totally false and has no value what-so-ever.

The newspaper concluded its article by saying that such approach by the American Government reflects persistence in ignoring the facts and the lack of any intention to establish the truth which is required by the victims families. In fact the American Government is exploiting the victims families and is turning them into mere electoral figures, thus undermining all human feelings in an unprecedented manner.

Commentator Says NATO Plans 'To Extend South'

LD2203151595 Tripoli JANA in English 1454 GMT
22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia 22, JAMA-HIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The political editor of the JAMA-HIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY has noted NATO's announcement to extend south towards the southern Mediterranean, under pretexts that had been carefully drafted to mislead others, and coincide with an intense American movement in the Arab area.

The editor said the area witnessed a visit by the American secretary of state, followed directly by a visit by the American minister of war which also overlapped with a further visit by the American vice-president.

The editor revealed that at the time when the NATO, the new colonialist alliance, threatens war against Arabs, the American Government pursues the policy of pressures and harassment for Egypt and Syria in endless attempts to force them submit for the Israeli enemy and their intentions, which are the absolute domination of the Arab homeland after exterminating its people.

The editor added that the American strategy to turn the Arab Gulf states into arms depots, with various forms and categories of weapons and, as dumping sites for nuclear wastes, marine and air military bases, all that takes place within the pattern of the fortification for the American and Western military deployments in the Arab area.

The editor pointed that these huge pressures are carefully orchestrated with the Western and American master-minded plans to seize Arab wealth and to deplete its

physical and natural resources to the extent that the announcement of bankruptcy by some Gulf states does not come as a shock because of their reliance on America and the West.

The editor said that it is the West who added the term of colonialism to the political dictionary. It is the West which launched two world wars that claimed more than 10 million human victims. It is the West which polluted the seas and oceans and burned down forests, destroyed the environment, distorted cultures, and they are now preparing to commit their last folly which will destroy the entire life over the planet earth.

The editor revealed that the West was involved since the end of the Second World War into the dumping large quantities of cultural distortion materials to promote the concepts of the consumption policy and to promote gradual and systematic brain-washing, and investing all that in their malicious crusader campaign, basically against Arabs and Muslims.

The editor said that the Western exporting for crisis to the Arab homeland, stirring troubles, fueling conflicts, launching civil wars, producing terrorist groups, destroying the morale resisting Arab unity in and any progress in the Arab homeland, monopolising knowledge and knowhow, depriving Arabs of technology, forcing Arab scientists and inventors to immigrate to the West, all this and that were strategies adopted by the colonialist West to prepare the stage for the NATO barbaric invaders to occupy the Arab homeland.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Yemen Official on Saudi Problem

LD2303203895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who briefed the leader on the Yemeni-Saudi problem and what has been achieved thus far in this context.

This visit, which coincides with the anniversary commemorations of the Arab League which has accepted the embargo against Libya, is meant to affirm Yemen's support for the Great Jamahiriya in the face of the unjust measures against it. The brother leader and al-Iryani discussed the threat of the expansion led by NATO, the neo-colonial alliance, and the need to confront it.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on NPT, Differences With Egypt

NC2403102095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT
24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—'Ali 'Uthman Taha, Sudanese foreign minister and head of

Sudan's delegation to the 103d session of the Arab League Council which concluded its meetings in Cairo yesterday has stated that President Mubarak's speech marking the League's 50th anniversary revived the sense of importance of inter-Arab action. He added that this action must result from an objective awareness of the circumstances involving the region and the Arab nation and the international plans formulated for them.

In an interview with MENA, Taha stated that in light of the points put forward by President Mubarak in his speech, we expect a positive spirit to prevail among the Arab parties, particularly between Egypt and Sudan. He said he hoped the atmosphere [between the two countries] would be cleared to address the obstacles clouding bilateral relations to serve the interests of the two countries as well as pan-Arab interests. He referred to President Mubarak's stressing the need to embark on the new era of inter-Arab action with full awareness of the past, self-confidence, and clarity of vision regarding the future.

He pointed out that President Mubarak's wishes and hopes were reflected in the serious approach adopted by the Arab foreign ministers and heads of delegations to the topic of the hour, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

Asked about the Arab foreign ministers' resolution on the Treaty, Taha noted that the debate on this issue generally reflected the danger that could engulf the region, and even world peace, from the partial application of this Treaty in a way that would allow Israel to proceed with its nuclear program away from international supervision or would oblige the regional countries to sign the Treaty to the exclusion of Israel. He noted that there is clear logic in the call for the universality of the Treaty's application to include Israel and others, thus eliminating any risk that might endanger any part of the world. He stressed that the resolution signals a sound start for a serious Arab move. He said he hoped that this serious Arab move would take its full course through interaction with other blocs, such as the nonaligned bloc and other international groupings, to achieve the necessary international balance.

The Sudanese foreign minister emphasized that there were no differences over the draft resolution on the Treaty in its initial form. He added: Some observations were made to expand the meaning so that it would be consistent, not contradictory, and to put the paragraphs in a logical order so as not to misinterpret the Arab stance of supporting the implementation of the Treaty, as defined and interpreted in the resolution's paragraphs. [passage omitted]

Regarding Egyptian-Sudanese relations and Sudan's views on these ties in future, the Sudanese foreign minister noted that bilateral relations have broad positive prospects, irrespective of the current impediments, which must be overcome.

Asked when he expects the Sudanese-Egyptian dialogue to resume, Taha stressed that the important thing is for

this spirit to prevail, and, if it does, official bilateral meetings could make sense. He pointed out: There is no timetable for such meetings, but nothing prevents a discussion on setting a date for these meetings. He noted that what is needed now is to rise above the differences and put them in perspective to confront the major challenge dictated by the cultural and political struggle we are currently experiencing.

Opposition Leader Rejects 'Guerrilla Warfare'

MM2203091895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Al-Mahdi Condemns Guerrilla Warfare and Reaffirms Adherence to Civil Struggle"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party, yesterday distanced himself and his party from any call for guerrilla warfare and methods of using explosive devices or targeting innocent people or national property.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in reply to a question about claims that the Garang movement might, in cooperation with some northern opposition parties, resort to guerrilla warfare, al-Mahdi said that "the Ummah Party does not support the method of launching guerrilla war in the cities or of targeting public installations."

Al-Mahdi said that the statements circulated recently about the opposition, including the claim that the Ummah Party has decided to launch a guerrilla war in Sudanese cities in the north, especially in the capital, were suspect. He added: "But because of the content of these reports, I wish to emphasize that I and those who share my views and religious faith condemn the method of urban warfare and see it as a desperate method against innocent people and a method detrimental to public property, and as a counterproductive method. Every good citizen should resist bringing such methods to the Sudanese political arena."

Al-Mahdi also said: "We can see the effects of that destructive method on some fraternal countries, and we are doing everything in our power to save them from its calamities."

He added: We have a clear cause and we serve our cause through civil struggle which uses various methods but not urban guerrilla warfare. [passage omitted]

Army Official Says Most Towns Recaptured From Rebels

EA2003202095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Brigadier Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, director of the Moral Guidance Branch and the Armed Forces spokesman, has announced that the Armed Forces have recaptured all

towns and villages in southern Kordofan, Upper Nile, Bahr al-Ghazal, and most towns in Western Equatoria from the rebel movement.

At a security briefing this afternoon to members of the People's Congress of the State of Khartoum, His Excellency announced that the recent battle for Kapoeta was a decisive one, and marked the end of the rebel movement

as a military force. He said the situation in those areas has returned to normal. He said the Armed Forces are playing an exemplary role in welcoming citizens returning from the rebel movement. He also announced that all land and river routes have been completely secured, and that transport activity between Kosti and Juba is now going on. The Armed Forces' spokesman also reviewed the progress achieved since the establishment of the National Salvation Revolution.

Yemeni-Saudi Joint Military Committee Meets**First Meeting Held in Riyadh**

JN2203083695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Yemeni-Saudi joint military committee held its first meeting in Riyadh this evening under Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces; and Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the general staff in Saudi Arabia.

The committee discussed a number of issues mentioned in the joint memorandum of understanding which was signed by the two countries in Mecca.

The Yemeni chief of staff and members of the Yemeni side on the joint military committee arrived in Riyadh at noon today. They were received at Riyadh air base by Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the general staff in Saudi Arabia, the commander of the southern region, a number of military commanders and officers, and Yemeni Ambassador Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab.

Committee Issues Statement

LD2303224595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Mar (SPA)—The Saudi-Yemeni joint military committee concluded its proceedings this evening, which began at the Conferences Hall in Riyadh on Tuesday, 20 March. The Saudi military committee was chaired by Major General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad. The Yemeni military joint committee was chaired by Brigadier 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the general staff. The meetings were also attended by the Yemeni ambassador to the kingdom. Presents were exchanged at the end of the meetings.

The Saudi-Yemeni joint military committee has issued the following statement.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Saudi-Yemeni joint military committee held its first round of fraternal talks on implementation of Article 5 of the memorandum of understanding agreed upon between the two fraternal countries on 21-23 March 1995.

An atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding prevailed over the talks. Viewpoints were identical on the committee's principle tasks: to prevent any mishap that might spoil fraternal relations or prejudice the committee's tasks and to examine everything that might bolster the two countries' pride, interests, and stability.

The two sides agreed that the committee should continue its meetings and hold a second round of talks in Sanaa at a date to be fixed later.

God is our guide.

[Signed] Riyadh 23 March 95 [passage omitted]

Yemeni Chief of Staff Notes Progress

MM2403095095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
23 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Yemeni Chief of Staff Accuses 'Elements' of Trying To Create Difficulties With Saudi Arabia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, AL-HAYAH—Yemeni Chief of Staff Brigadier 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah has accused elements he did not name of trying to create difficulties and problems on the border between his country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In statements to AL-HAYAH in Riyadh, where he is heading the Yemeni side in the joint Saudi-Yemeni joint committee, whose meetings started the day before yesterday, he said that "there are agents trying to create difficulties and problems to make personal gains."

Asked whether he was referring to former Socialist Party leaders, he told AL-HAYAH: "There are agents trying to make gains and cause ruin through smuggling." However, the Yemeni official described the situation on the border between his country and Saudi Arabia as "good." He said that the two sides "are denying these elements the opportunity." He stressed the need to "consolidate a lasting secure and stable situation."

He said that he sensed from Saudi Chief of Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, who is heading the Saudi side at the military committee's meetings, and from the other members, "utmost eagerness for the negotiations to achieve their objectives." He pointed out that the two sides' new meetings fall within the framework of implementing Article 5 of the Saudi-Yemeni memorandum of understanding signed in holy Mecca at the end of last month; working to clear the air and create suitable conditions for the work of the specialist technical committees dealing with border, water, and other issues; and preparing the atmosphere for normalizing relations between the two countries in response to the sincere wish of their leaderships. He said that the committee is working to eliminate any tension, "proceeding from the spirit of understanding emerging since the memorandum of understanding was signed, and also from the two countries' desire to focus on security and stability in the peninsula and the Arab region."

Brig. 'Ulaywah expected his country and Saudi Arabia to form the other committees agreed in the memorandum of understanding before mid-April. He also expected the "parent committee"—which concluded the memorandum and is headed from the Saudi side by Ibrahim al-Anqari, special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd], and from the Yemeni side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and planning and developing minister—to resume its meetings in Sanaa before the end of the month. He stressed that the military committee's work in Riyadh

"will continue until it achieves its objectives." He pointed out that the committee is not bound by a deadline or a specific number of meetings.

Bahrain

Interior Ministry Master Sergeant Said Killed

JN2403083395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT
24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 24 Mar (WAKH)—A responsible source at the [Bahraini] Interior Ministry has said that at 1755 on Wednesday 22 March, public security services were informed that a the body of a murder victim was found near the victim's car on a road in the al-Nuwaydirat area. A number of senior security commanders, investigation officers, and experts immediately headed for the scene of the crime.

The source added that the investigations identified the murder victim as Ibrahim Rashid 'Abd-al-Karim al-Su'aydi, 34, a Bahraini citizen and a master sergeant at the Interior Ministry. Forensic reports showed that the victim had sustained some head bruises after being beaten with a hard object. There were also knife wounds to the body.

The source went on to say that preliminary reports concluded that unknown persons had made a plan to kill the victim. They, the source explained, decided to lie in wait for him, attacking and killing him with a blunt object as he was returning to his residence.

The source added that competent security services had arrested some suspects and that extensive investigation to reveal the circumstances and motives of the crime continue.

Oman

Egypt's Musa on Ties, NPT, Peace Process

MM2303143795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
18 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Ghani] President Husni Mubarak held talks with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id in Muscat (the day before yesterday). What are the main issues which were discussed in the talks? And are their views identical, especially as some people say from time to time that the two countries adopt different positions on some issues, such as Iran, the possibility of relying on the Damascus declaration as a framework for Arab-Gulf relations, and so on.

[Musa] The main issue is the situation in the Arab world and the peace process. Views between Egypt and Oman are very close, and it is untrue that there are differences. However, what I would like to say and focus on is that a

difference of opinion between any two fraternal states over an issue or two is not a bad sign, but, rather, a healthy sign. Because we should abandon our old way of thinking which always tried to stress that all views are identical -- which is not, nor has it ever been, sound with regard to inter-Arab relations.

These relations are now at least somewhat healthy as regards Egypt. We talk openly with the brothers and listen to their frank views. With regard to relations with Oman, we exchange views over the issues of common Arab, regional, and international concern. For example, with regard to the peace process, we believe that it is now in a state of "deterioration": not advancing in the right way or at the right speed. And the Palestinian track is threatened if the Declaration of Principles is not implemented honestly. This is also Oman's view. And when officials in Oman and Egypt meet at the highest level—at the level of the president and the sultan—matters should be addressed openly.

I spoke about the peace process issue. There is also the issue of Arab relations, which are not as good as one could possibly wish.

With regard to the Damascus Declaration, we believe that it should continue in current circumstances. Because it is not in our interests to dismantle any Arab grouping at this time, since all these groupings are within the Arab League framework.

We believe that the Arab relationship within the Damascus Declaration is important. Our Omani brothers share the same view. Thus reports of a disagreement or coolness are untrue. If there was a disagreement, I would have informed you of it. Our positions might not necessarily be identical over a certain issue, whether regarding Iran, Iraq, or any other issue, as you mentioned in your question. But the orientation is the same, and our view in Egypt of Omani policy is that it is active and has numerous positive aspects, whether at the Arab or regional level, as is the case with the peace process. And also in its [Oman's] capacity as a Security Council member. All this grants importance to Omani policy and makes it incumbent on us to exchange views with the Omani brothers. This is President Husni Mubarak's view, hence his current visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Is there backtracking on Egypt's position on the issue of linking its signing the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] to Israel's announcement of its commitment to signing the treaty on a specific date? And if there is no backtracking, what is the compromise which President Mubarak indicated that you will discuss with the Israeli Government?

[Musa] There is no backtracking. It is a position which concerns Egyptian national security, pan-Arab security, and regional security. The issue is not to do with the signing of the treaty, but to vote for a position on indefinite or long-term renewal. This is what we are opposed to. Why are we opposed to it? Because there is

an Israeli nuclear program outside the legal system. Egypt is an NPT member, and we have always been advocates of nuclear nonproliferation, that is, advocates of "global" nonproliferation, not nonproliferation based on selective foundations that exclude Israel.

Such a proposal harms our national dignity, and it also threatens our national security. Why should one state be exempted? There must be reasons, but these reasons are unacceptable. This is why we will not agree to the indefinite renewal of the treaty as long as the Israeli position has not moved toward joining the treaty or establishing a region free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Only such an orientation would cause us to reconsider our position and take another decision. But in view of the lack of an Israeli move in the direction in question, our position is clear and conclusive: We cannot agree to the indefinite renewal of the treaty.

[Abd-al-Ghani] What about a compromise with Israel?

[Musa] There is no compromise. There is a move toward joining the treaty or establishing a region free from nuclear weapons, in the sense that the Israeli nuclear program should enter the framework of international legitimacy and be subjected to inspection.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Some Arab thinkers and military men have said that the real threat to Arab security does not end even with Israel's signing of the treaty, because this threat is linked to Israel's nuclear arsenal estimated at 200 nuclear warheads. Did you raise with the Israelis and Americans the necessity for Israel to get rid of all these weapons under international supervision, and within a specified period?

[Musa] That is a very delicate issue. It is not a matter of rhetoric, or an issue of saying: If you do not do that now, so-and-so will happen. That would not be political talk, but, rather, inflammatory talk and slogans—an era which has gone. At present we are discussing extremely sensitive issues. Thus when we demand that Israel join the NPT, this will have its political, legal, and armament effects. Then we would move from this step, namely "inspection." Then from inspection we move to the military aspect. As for the slogans, they should be eliminated... these are things we have nothing to do with.

[Abd-al-Ghani] It has been reported that some Gulf states cannot join the Egyptian position on nuclear weapons, because, if they do, nearby Iran would not sign the renewal of the treaty, and they, of course, want it to sign. And some other Arab states have expressed coolness on the question of not signing the renewal. So has Egypt actually failed to secure a collective Arab position supportive of its position, which it presented through a plan it submitted to the Arab League?

[Musa] First of all, Iran is a party to the treaty, and it has announced that it will sign the renewal of the treaty. Thus that talk is unsound. And since Iran is going to adhere to the treaty, it is useful to know what the real

threat to the region is. The real threat is the existence of a military nuclear program that is not subject to inspection, questioning, or any of the international laws, conventions, and treaties. We have explained our position, and if any Arab state wants to differ with us in this connection and act alone, it is its own responsibility. As for us, our responsibility is clear, and the next Arab League meeting will define the framework of Arab thinking.

All that you have said, namely that some states are ahead, some behind, and some opposed, is mere assumptions. We will not comment on that until after the Arab League meeting.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Have you not heard that there are conservative and cautious positions adopted by the Gulf states on that issue?

[Musa] I stress that I am not going to comment until after the Arab League meeting.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Although Egypt's bilateral relations with the Gulf states are good—perhaps very good—and despite some of the criticisms of the Damascus Declaration's effectiveness, Egypt continues to insist on reacting it, when you have on several occasions warned that the declaration is no longer useful.

[Musa] Yes, that was my opinion at one point. I said, in so many words, that the declaration is "faltering." But there are now huge pickaxes trying to undermine the Arab building, regardless of whether it is strong or weak. This is why Egypt now believes that all frameworks of cooperation and Arab gathering, including the Damascus Declaration, should be safeguarded.

There are reasons which rise above other reasons, and circumstances prompt us to bolster every Arab grouping and every form of Arab cooperation.

[Abd-al-Ghani] There is a crisis between you and Israel. Can you define the elements of the crisis or sum up your problems with Israel in specific points?

[Musa] The matter is very clear. Our disagreement with Israel is based on two points: The first is the peace process. Our position is that this process should not be leapfrogged. Because the Arab world should be clear on this point: that relations with Israel will be based on peace, not on leapfrogging the peace, not on a project to build a bridge or resurface a road. These are economic cooperation questions based on peace, but they are not peace. The peace process has slowed down and commitment to it is no longer conclusive, especially on Israel's part—which is unacceptable to us. Add to this the Israeli statements and positions again talking about war, as well as some measures such as settlements in the occupied territories. All these matters now represent a negative attitude on Israel's part—an attitude with which we disagree. In other words, if some quarters plan to establish an Israeli peace based on Israeli terms, that is unacceptable and we will oppose it. But if there is an

Arab-Israeli peace, we will support it. In Egypt we began the process with President Anwar al-Sadat's initiative. We support the peace process, normal relations, and the land-for-peace principle. But to have an Israeli peace by leapfrogging the peace process and establishing a network of relations so that there will be no peace in the end—that is something which can be done without, since Egypt cannot agree to it. Land for peace is the basis, then relations would be built on that. I reiterate that we are not for an Israeli peace, rather, for an Arab-Israeli peace based on mutual commitments, rights, and agreements.

[Abd-al-Ghani] What about the second point of the crisis or disagreement with Israel?

[Musa] The second point is the issue of the nuclear program and regional security. Because this security cannot be based on the presence of an Israeli military nuclear program, while others have to sign the NPT. That harms national dignity and national security. We believe that we cannot move on the road of the "indefinite extension" of the treaty unless Israel makes a clear and conclusive move toward this aim.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Although Egypt is not a member of the Security Council, its regional role can influence the question of lifting the sanctions on Iraq. Where does Egypt fit in the feverish race between Iraq one the one hand and Britain and the United States on the other, especially as President Mubarak declared in Japan his support for alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering?

[Musa] The Iraqi people's suffering cannot, nor should it, continue. And we should act as Arabs toward lifting the difficulties and suffering on the Iraqi people. Of course, the Iraqi regime is responsible for the Iraqi people's suffering. But we do not want the situation to develop to the point where we all would be held responsible for what is happening to the Iraqi people or for a human catastrophe affecting the Iraqi people.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Do you expect the sanctions imposed on Iraq to be lifted this year, and will that be done tacitly and gradually, not in the form of an open resolution in the first stage?

[Musa] There are numerous views, which we are following up, but they have not yet led to any specific result. I know that there are talks inside and outside the Security Council framework on this issue. But we are only following up the present stage.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Egyptian-Iranian relations are a mystery. They tend to see relaxation sometimes and tension at other times. And the causes of the tension do not seem to be clear sometimes. Is this attributable to the fact that Iran supports the groups of political violence, or is it attributable to what is termed its increasing ambitions and threats to the Arab states in the Gulf? And have you decided to do away with a third channel like Syria or Oman to work to develop your relations with Tehran? Are your similar positions on the NPT not bringing you closer to one another?

[Musa] Relations with Iran have numerous complications. Iran is a state whose people are a fraternal people. It is a Middle Eastern state, and there are common interests between us and it—interests which benefit both sides. On the other hand, there is a crisis with Iran. There is the Gulf islands issue (the United Arab Emirates' islands), and Iran's policy in the Arab region and Islamic region, and the accusations leveled at Iran. This question should be clarified by the Iranians so as to reassure everyone.

The Iranians are known for their intelligence and are capable of overcoming these two obstacles, if overcoming them is in Iran's interests, and I believe it is.

We in Egypt do not need a third channel, because relations between us and Iran allow direct confrontation or dealings. I always meet with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on any occasion that brings us together in an international conference, UN meetings, Nonaligned Movement meetings, or the meetings of the special committee on Bosnia. We discuss these matters, and if there is any issue, we exchange views over it. But there is a problem in relations with Iran which we hope will disappear, because Iranian-Arab relations should be constructive and sound.

[Abd-al-Ghani] If the heads of Egyptian and Iranian diplomacy met on several occasions, why has none of the disputes been resolved? And is there anything new in these relations?

[Musa] The severity of matters has eased to some extent. But it seems that there are still political tendencies in Iran differing over this issue. So let them take their time and agree over it.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Some people in Israel and the West accuse you of taking Egyptian diplomacy back to open pan-Arab policies that have declined since the late seventies. In fact some people believe that you are moving toward the adversarial position which characterized the Egyptian revolution's relations with the West in the fifties and the sixties. What is your opinion?

[Musa] You say that some people are accusing me. Is it an accusation that the diplomatic line is nationalist? That is not an accusation for me to deny. The assessment is incorrect. Egypt has always been clear as regards its national, pan-Arab, and regional line. And matters have now begun to express themselves in a clearer manner, because the circumstances have changed. In the past there was an enemy and a friend, war and peace, Arabs and Israelis. There was black and white, but there are many colors now. There is a new regional order and an indefinite renewal—until the day of judgment—of the NPT, with continued commitments. There is talk about a new regional order and new regional cooperation. And there is a new peace between the Arabs and Israel. There is a new world talking about a new world order different from the old one. Some matters are now interlinked. And we in Egypt—in our capacity as the largest Arab state—

believe that we have a responsibility vis- a-vis the formation of the new regional order. The matter required from us clear and conclusive positions.

Israel is engaged in the peace process now. But this process is declining and hampered by obstacles. It could slow down, and it could fail. When we say that the peace process is moving in the wrong direction, and when we say that Israel is wrong in doing this and that—and we did tell the Palestinians: You are wrong in doing such and such—the problem is that Israel and its officials are not accustomed to people differing with them. If the superpowers do not differ with them, how can Egypt differ with them? But no...we will differ, because we do not see matters from an Israeli angle. We see them from an Arab angle. And in this eventful period, we have a view which we are expressing, and there is no disagreement between us and the West, as you say. At this stage we talk about a Mediterranean policy, hold meetings with all Mediterranean states, hold negotiations to establish a free trade zone and a new relationship with the EU, and receive many U.S. officials and hold dialogues with them. But frank talks are held between us, and there is no disagreement or clash [sidam] with the West, but, rather, differing views over some issues. Frankly, there are two major issues: The first is the peace process, since we refuse an Israeli peace, and we request an Arab-Israeli peace. The second is the (Israeli) nuclear program issue.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Some believe that your independent personality produces special initiatives which might not be different from Egyptian policies in terms of the general orientation, but might be different in terms of the scale and the severity, maybe without full coordination with the other institutions of the Egyptian state. Has your presence led to a change in the mode that has prevailed in recent decades as regards the presidency's direct supervision of foreign policy, namely a move toward a balance between this role and the Foreign Ministry's role?

[Musa] Egyptian foreign policy is led by the president of the republic, that is President Hosni Mubarak. The foreign minister or the ministry assumes the implementation and the follow-up, and expresses the state's opinion. This policy is the policy of "such- and-such," the foreign minister. It is Egypt's policy, which is led by President Mubarak. It is expressed and implemented by the foreign minister. I hope that is clear! We at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry do not claim for ourselves a role bigger than this. We sincerely express the Egyptian leadership's [views], Egyptian feelings, and Egyptian interests.

[Abd-al-Ghani] When do you expect U.S. aid to Egypt to be reduced, and what will be the effect on the economic situation, hence stability and the Egyptian role in the region?

[Musa] The Egyptian economic situation should rely on Egyptian production first. Because no matter how long the aid continues, it remains temporary.

[Abd-al-Ghani] Some people were astonished by Egypt's request to join the Maghreb Union, for several reasons, first of which is that Egypt has always been classified as an eastern state, or a state that is situated between the [Arab] east and the Maghreb. Second, this union is completely inactive. Third, some Maghreb states received Egypt's request with coolness or embarrassment. Did you do that to benefit from the trade benefits of the Mediterranean dialogue, known at one point as the 5+5 dialogue? And are you not concerned over these new partitions of the Arab world, such as North Africa, Middle East, and the Gulf?

[Musa] I am astonished by the way you read matters. At this stage of the Arab world's moves and Arab relations it is useful to link Arab groupings to one another. And it is useful to link the Arab east with the Arab Maghreb, and indeed to bolster the Maghreb Union itself.

When we join this union, we do not do so to bolster our relations with Europe. We do not need that, because Egypt's relations with the EU are very strong. Even the talk about a Middle East and a west Mediterranean has ended. We now talk about the Mediterranean.

What we need is to bolster Arab groupings. And if the Maghreb Union covers North Africa, Egypt is in North Africa, and it is in our interests to have strong relations with Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, and so on. If we abandon them as a Maghreb Union, people say this is wrong. When we ask to join it, people say: how? and why? You should not embark on such a step. True, this step is somewhat new, because it is the first time Egypt has moved toward the Arab Maghreb. But when we moved toward the west, we were also moving toward the east.

[Abd-al-Ghani] How?

[Musa] At least in the Damascus Declaration. We are a member of the declaration and are seeking to become an observer in the Maghreb Union. Why not? It is a positive step, and I do not believe that there is coolness on the Maghreb side's part.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Communique on Support for Detainees

MS2103092095 London CDLR MONITOR in English
12 Mar 95

[Communique No. 26 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 12 March—received by fax 20 March]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Day of Support

The legitimate leaders decided to name the protest day on the 16th Shawwal (17th March) the "Day of support," as the day will involve a show of support for Islam, scholars and reformers. The leaders have also decided to

restrict the protests to Riyadh al-Turayri Mosque, Jeddah: Safar al-Hawali Mosque and Ha'il: al-Haggs Mosque. The Buraydah protest will not take place, as a result of information received which has supported the decision.

The legitimate leaders would like to remind the Nation that those who remain secluded behind bars are a group of the Nations most renowned scholars, university professors, intellectuals and dignitaries. In addition to this, they are from the Nations most honorable people and from tribes such as Tamim, Bani Khalid, 'Utaybah, Harb, Qahtan, Shammar and al-Dawasir.

The honorable people were imprisoned specifically because of their protest against the chaotic mismanagement of the country. They alerted the nation to the dangers and decline to come, and they refused to accept the corruption, bribery, despotism, the destruction of the economy and the impoverishment of the Nation under al Sa'ud. These honorable men made great personal sacrifices to lift oppression and injustice. The Nation has only known this group for their knowledge, faithfulness, bravery and sacrifice. Time has proved that the rulers have no share of the Islamic justice and its greatness. In face, the rulers do not even possess the dignity of the Arabs, their nobility and their sense of honour. The rulers have never faltered in their reign of misrule, which has brought the country to destruction. Al Sa'ud have never ceased in their attempts to cause animosity between the people. The rulers use money and the media as weapons to mislead and confuse the Nation.

O Muslims, you are tomorrow's victims, if you keep your silence in such a situation and if you fear for this life and are in fear of these criminals. Your rights and freedom will not be presented to you on a plate by your arrogant oppressors, but they will be seized by the honorable people who have grown tired by such continual oppression. The oppressors must be made aware of the fact that the Muslim Nation has become enraged and exasperated with those who oppose and defy their faith, despoil their honour and deprive them of their dignity.

Your scholars and reformers appeal to you for support for only one hour after the Friday prayer in a House of Allah. By participating, you will be performing your duty towards the reformers and you will be requesting the release of the detainees.

Your duties towards the reformers are actually greater than that, as your duty is to support them unconditionally with your money and your souls, as they are the leaders of the Nation and the Nations best sons. The Prophet (PBUH) [peace be upon him] said: "A Brother is The Brother of a Muslim and should not cause injustice towards him, nor give him up."

This Hadith applies to an ordinary Muslim, so what do the legitimate leaders of the Nation, its scholars and dignitaries deserve? Be aware of extreme cowardice or miserliness, as these are the worst insults attributed to

man a confirmed in the Prophets (PBUH) Hadith. We appeal to the men and youth of the nation to perform some of their duties and to insist on your rights and be faithful to your brothers in exile and in prison.

So, participate in this simple action and be wary of only being observers in Islam's fight with corruption, slavery and humiliation.

O Brothers, we would like to inform you of the good news that a group of your brothers will precede you in the designated mosques, so attend the protest to support and help them.

The following are some of the directions required:-

- (1) to distribute this communique as widely as possible.
- (2) to use various methods of transportation to the locations.
- (3) to arrive early to ease the organisation of the activity.
- (4) leave your fax machines ready every night during this week for any new directions which may be necessary according to any new information we may receive.

We ask Allah to bless the efforts of our legitimate leaders and to make our intentions faithful to Allah.

London, Sunday the 12th of March 1995

CDLR Bulletin on Protests in Riyadh, Jeddah

MS2103143695 London CDLR MONITOR in English
17 Mar 95

[Bulletin No. 39 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 17 March—received by fax 19 March]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right to Know—"The Day Of Support"

Last Sunday the Committee issued a new communique regarding the "sit-in" protest. Mentioned in the communique is the decision by the legitimate leaders on designating Friday 17th March as the "Day of Support." Also contained in the communique were directions from the legitimate leaders confining the locations for the protest to Riyadh, Jeddah and Ha'il and not to proceed with a protest in Buraydah due to discouraging information received. Other directions for the protest were also issued, such as the necessity of using various means of transportation to reach the destinations, to arrive early in order to enable efficient organisation and to assemble the brothers effectively. Other directions given were to leave fax machines ready at all times in case of the necessity of issuing new instructions, and to distribute communique 26 as widely as possible. Attached to the communique is a list of approximately 300 names of the honorable detainees who are still imprisoned, amongst whom are scores of scholars, professors, Shaykhs and other dignitaries. The reason for publishing this list is to prove that the arrests were not only directed towards the Shaykhs Safar and Salman and their followers, but are

also directed towards any preachers of reform. Indeed, the arrests are aimed at anyone who attempts to save the country from destruction. This list also shows that the number of detainees claimed by the authorities, which is just over 20, has no connection whatsoever with reality. Those who are still confined behind bars are actually numbered in the hundreds and it is worth nothing that there are many imprisoned whose names have not yet reached the Committee.

For the sake of the success of this protest project, we urge the use of all possible means that may help in the avoidance of security check points, such as travelling at staged intervals, rather than in groups, and also by using different means and methods of transportation.

We would like to confirm the necessity of absolute discipline, not to attempt any illegitimate actions and not to provide the authorities with any opportunity to slander the reform movement.

On the other hand, our Brothers in Buraydah have contacted the Committee to express their disappointment at the cancellation of any protest in Buraydah. As much as we can sympathise and appreciate their feelings, as well as their desire to show their support, the decision to cancel the protest in Buraydah was taken by the legitimate leaders. After consultations both inside and outside the Kingdom, the cancellation was deemed necessary under the present circumstances. We would therefore wish to convey to the Brothers in Qasim the request by the legitimate leaders to them in particular. The request is that they should participate, if possible, in the protests in Riyadh and Jeddah for the reasons mentioned before, but also, and perhaps more importantly, because an event occurring in those cities will be seen by the whole world. The designated location in Riyadh, for example, is in an area that contains no less than 70 different nationalities from around the world. Therefore, the assembly of several hundred people for a vigil in a mosque in that area would be more effective internationally than tens of thousands gathering in Buraydah where there are no significant numbers of expatriates. It is well known that al Sa'ud are exceptionally sensitive to any criticism on an international dimension. However, it is the opinion of the legitimate leaders that there will be a meeting in Qasim, Insha'allah [God willing], but at the right time and on the appropriate occasion. How do you know that this occasion may even be the celebration of the release of the heroes from Prison? (Insha'allah).

We have previously indicated the possible reactions of the authorities and among the possibilities is the closure of the designated mosques. Our sources have informed us that the authorities may close al-Taryri mosque with the excuse that the closure is for repair and maintenance. If this closure does occur we appeal to our Brothers to proceed with the protest in the neighbouring al-Khayriyyah Mosque. Any closure of the mosque would be the first indication of the success of the project and will result in a retraction of the regime. It will also

provide the evidence of the great fear felt by the authorities regarding the consequences of such gatherings. The besiegement of the mosque by the anti-riot forces is a possible eventuality. We do not believe that the presence of people in the mosque after the prayer is any reason for confrontation. However, if the authorities repeat their previous crime and blunder in the mosque, then they will be doing so before the eyes of the world. This would also provide further evidence of the success of the protest as the whole world would be a party to the Saudi "Muslims" regime led by the "Custodian of the Holy Mosques" assaulting mosques and worshippers!

We confirm, that, in Sha'Allah there will be no danger for the people participating, and the worst that could befall them is a day or two in detention for the way of Allah. For this occasion, the legitimate leaders directed a special message to the security personnel in the different forces, and the leaders appealed to the Brothers to distribute the message widely amongst both civil and military personnel before, during or after the protest. This message is attached to the bulletin.

The Committee received information on the extent of the discomfort and confusion of the regime and its fear of the protest and its consequences, as well as the lack of choices available to them, especially with regard to the fact that the timing and the place is definitely not to their advantage. Therefore we advise all our Brothers to put aside their disputes and to take full advantage of the weakness, agitation and confusion of the regime.

We would confirm that with the help of Allah there will be support and encouragement at the location of the protests for those participating. For those who still have any reservations, we request them to refer to our previous bulletins and to seriously contemplate the legitimate and practical decisions discussed.

O Muslim Brothers and Sisters, a last worked to you. You must realise that in these changing times where conscience is sold cheaply, treason is a normality and the people are confused between good and evil, those who face the tyrants with the words of truth in public are the people who have a greater reward from Allah than a fighting Mujahid in the battlefield. So beware of withdrawal and defeat.

News The Committee an al Sa'ud...

The Committee learned from special sources that certain members of al Sa'ud who have suffered greatly from the activities of the Committee, have been successful in obtaining and smuggling a highly dangerous poison procured from the Russian Intelligence at a cost of millions of dollars. It is their intention to use the poison against al-Mas'ari and al-Faqih in London. This substance is so powerful that it causes death without leaving any trace of criminal responsibility.

This action illustrates the extent of the suffering and desperation felt by the royal family members at the

hands of the Committee and it demonstrates their preparation and willingness to entangle the Kingdom in actions of enormous political recklessness in order to liquidate the leading figures from the Committee.

The Committee have informed the authorities concerned in order to prevent such despicable and cowardly plans being executed. However, it would sometimes seem that international law ceases to be effective when the Saudi monarchy is in danger. Al Sa'ud are so ignorant and misinformed that they actually believe that by assassinating al-Mas'ari and al-Faqih, the committee will collapse. Their immature minds fail to realise that such an effective Committee cannot possibly be run by only two people, and al Sa'ud fail to realise that such professional, efficient and well co-ordinated activities also have a highly organised back-up team to carry on the work of the Committee in case of any unforeseen eventualities.

Financial Crisis Worsens Transfers of Royal Family: 10 Billions New Tariffs on Pilgrims

Western consultants employed by the Financial Ministry wrote highly critical reports on the economic situation and they all agreed that the solution to the economic crisis lies not in the imposition of taxes and tariffs, but in the general financial policies and the way the ruling family deal with the budget. It is highly unlikely that al Sa'ud will take the slightest notice of the reports.

The Committee has also learned from specialised economic sources that the total monetary transfers abroad pertaining to al Sa'ud alone since the last budget amount to 9.5 billion dollars. This gives an indication of their preparations for a group escape if the necessity arises. Such transfers caused a severe cash flow shortage both in hard currency and even the Saudi Riyal.

A new decision by the ruling faction of the family is to favour a new suggestion of Salman of imposing new tariffs on the pilgrims to be paid in the form of approved direct cheques. It would appear that the country that contains the largest reserves of petroleum in the world and which produces and exports the largest quantity of petrol in the world, has been forced to return to the old days of living off the pilgrims!

Nayif and Infantile Plans...

After the issuing of sentences of imprisonment and lashing on a number of Shaykh to please the Interior Minister, Nayif must have believed his own propaganda that he can even reach out to those abroad. He recently instructed the judiciary to issue a judgement in absentia on one of the Committee members in exile abroad. The sentence approved was that of execution. We cannot begin to comprehend how the judge could approve such a sentence.

However, Nayif is now trying his best to entice the Committee member he so desperately wants, to return to the Kingdom with inducements such as a promise of

forgiveness and understanding along with an offer of a position if he returns. It would seem that Nayif has yet to realise that people vary greatly in their levels of intelligence!

In addition, the latest large confiscation of land was carried out by the "First lady" of the Interior Ministry and she now holds the dubious achievement of becoming the only competitor to Sultan in extending her influence and the acquisition of people's property with no right. We congratulate the Interior Ministry for their latest efforts on behalf of the protecting the people's property and money!!

'Abd-al-'Aziz Centre of Family Dispute...

The case of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Fahd is still in the ascendant within the royal family. However, the article printed in the Observer has caused great embarrassment for King Fahd and his son 'Abd-al-'Aziz in front of their respective brothers and uncles.

The King attempted to make amends by accusing the Committee of dishonesty and deceit. The King devised a farcical plan which involved his son 'Abd-al-'Aziz being despatched to receive his brother Faysal Ibn-Fahd at the airport. This was widely reported in the press and media.

On the other hand, 'Abd-al-'Aziz paid his sister-in-law a sum of 60 million dollars, the value of her jewellery stolen in Thailand, which had been the cause of strained relations between the Kingdom and Thailand. The King made a further effort to restore the status quo by pressuring Bandr Ibn-Sultan to apologise to Faysal after their argument at the world cup when the Kingdom played Holland. During their altercation Faysal publicly spat in Bandar's face. (Notice here that Bandar, the one who was humiliated, was the one forced to apologise as he is the son of the "black" lady!)

The feelings of malice and resentment amongst the family members are presently at their highest. The Committee has learned that the project of the most influential brothers in the family is undergoing a dangerous and disturbing change, where Salman himself is now considering joining Crown Prince Abdallah's faction as he has begun to realise the severity of the crisis brought about by Fahd through his own son 'Abd-al-'Aziz. Salman also hopes that his change of face may result in 'Abd-al offering him the position of Crown Prince in the future.

The latest private present for 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Fahd was a palace worth more than one billion Riyal, for him and his mother, hear Al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh.

The Treaty with Israel and the Latest Arrests...

The latest arrests after Ramadan came as a surprise to many people, but after careful contemplation and consideration of regional and international events, it then becomes possible to provide a credible explanation. America is still using all possible means to pressurise the

Kingdom to continue to support and sponsor the Middle East peace process. Even more than that, the USA is exerting great pressure on the Kingdom to place the largest share of sponsorship with the Middle East Regional Bank. The Bank would then be in a position to be called upon to revive the Israeli economy.

The Americans have used their influence in the UN Security Council to threaten al Sa'ud that they may allow the return of Iraq to the petroleum market if al Sa'ud do not take increased steps towards the Middle East peace process.

As the detained group were amongst the ones who vocally and vociferously opposed the peace deal with Israel and were victorious in their debate with Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz regarding his fatwas relating to the peace process (secretly distributed on cassette) it was inevitable that they would be detained. However, this will not prevent further declarations opposing... [sentence incomplete]

Ibn-Baz's stand from appearing...

It is quite possible that a new position regarding the peace process will soon be declared by the Kingdom and the Govt. will instruct Ibn-Baz to issue more fatwas in support of the Govt's decisions.

The Hospital Disaster...

"The health Minister yesterday offered his resignation when the public and the authorities unanimously agreed that the main responsibility for the disaster fell squarely on his shoulders. The Prime Minister also received tough criticism from the Consultancy Council during questioning on the details of the disaster. In Fact, some council members quite frankly requested that the Prime Minister should tender his resignation. The Council decided upon the formation of a Committee led by a senior judge to investigate the disaster. The Prime Minister will declare the names of the proposed committee members before the council for the purpose of electing the said committee.

It was decided that legal applications from relatives of the deceased should be accepted and presented to the High Court for compensation from the Govt....."

The above account is, in fact, the imagination of the writer "running wild" while he was contemplating the Govt's reactions to the disaster at Buraydh's hospital. If our leaders had any respect for their Nation, the imaginary account above would have been a reality. However, in the Buraydah disaster, the authorities chose to keep the whole incident under wraps and the press and media were prevented from reporting anything whatsoever related to the tragedy. The authorities even went a step further by using the intelligence personnel to prevent the public from reaching the area and so learn the details of the disaster. Despite the disgraceful management of the

event, it never occurred to the authorities to instigate any form of investigation into the reasons behind the catastrophe.

So, what exactly was the nature of this disaster? Last Saturday saw heavy rainfall in the area of Qasim. In a very short time, the hospital of Buraydah was seriously flooded and the electricity supply disrupted. Medicine and equipment was destroyed by the flood water. Due to the ensuing chaos more than 30 deaths were recorded, mostly of children. Further chaos erupted during the transfer of patients to other hospitals.

The reason for the occurrence of this tragedy is simple. The choice of the land for the location of the hospital was based on the fact that the land itself was only bought as a favour to certain people and not for its suitability as a site for a hospital.

It would seem that in this case, the only ones likely to resign as a result of the tragedy are the patients themselves!!

The Fire In Medina...

A fire raged out of control in Halaqa area of Medina last week. After the fire was extinguished it revealed that most of the shops in the area had suffered extensive damage. There was a great similarity between this fire and its circumstances and the fire of al-Bat-ha', as well as similarities in the methods employed to extinguish the fire. Further similarity occurred in the way the shop owners were prevented from inspecting their properties until some considerable time after the area was declared safe.

The majority of people who followed these events believed that the fires were a result of arson and perhaps started by the same perpetrator. It is also believed that the reason behind the fires was to force the owners of the shops to rent alternative property in other markets surprisingly owned by Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in both towns.

The people now say, "take the oil profits directly if necessary, but leave us in peace!"

Sultan Bin-'Abd-'Aziz Never Satisfied...

Prince Sultan put his thieving hand on a huge area of Al-Ahsa' containing many streets, farms and irrigation systems. It is no coincidence that this land adjoins his own land in that area.

The neighbouring villages of al-Shurba and al-Halilaa are beginning to feel nervous as they fear that it is highly likely that their villages may well be next in line, knowing Sultan.

Property Owners and Transport Contractors Complain...

Despite the efforts of the property owners of buildings rented to the Govt. as schools and the contractors responsible for transportation of students in al-Ahsa'

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area, to collect their dues from the authorities for last year and this year, it would appear that it was all in vain.

The group feel increasingly despondent and desperate regarding their chances of regaining their losses. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the landlords are prevented from evicting the school administration from their buildings and the contractors are similarly prevented from disengaging themselves from contracts to transport students. Their inability to reach a satisfactory solution is reminiscent of similar situations which occurred in Communist countries i.e. they face a "no-win" situation.

Our suggestion to these beleaguered citizens is to take a partner from the "noble" royal family if they want to secure their rights!

Appendix: A Message From The Reformers To The Security Forces.

al-Salam Alaykum [peace be upon you]

The huge overall decline suffered by the country is no longer a well kept secret amongst influential politicians, nor private views whispered by the reformers only. It has actually become the open talk of the people, as the Corruption has become deeply rooted in our country and it has affected us all. No one is immune to its burden and we all harvest its results.

The decline and the corruption disseminating throughout the country is only an indication of the huge collapse awaiting the country if serious steps towards general reform are not implemented as soon as reasonably possible.

Therefore, the scholars and the intellectuals of the Nation have initiated this comprehensive reform project over recent years in an attempt to limit the damage and to salvage the country from destruction. The reformers attempted to communicate with, and advise, the rulers of this country, by all possible means in a polite, diplomatic and honourable manner. Unfortunately, they found no listening ear or open heart. On the contrary, the result of their efforts for reform was in their imprisonment and detention. The rulers attempted to silence the voices of reform by incarcerating the reformers in prison, in the belief that these oppressive methods would firmly close the door in the face of anyone preaching reform. The authorities have failed to realise that preaching for reform is no longer the paramount consideration of the few scholars who initiated it in the first place. Rather, it has become the dream of the whole Nation. On seeing their scholars imprisoned, the Nation have been released from their own prisons of fear. The Nation feel the responsibility of carrying the banner of reform and continuing the cause until the voice of reform is heard clearly by every man, woman and child.

We have learned that the regime will not appreciate any of these activities whatsoever and will attempt to defeat or forestall any call for reform, no matter how peaceful it is.

As the tool they are going to use in this operation will be YOU, brother security man, we felt that we must remind you of several facts.

Firstly, the fundamental responsibility of the security personnel is to protect the society internally from all dangers and crime which threaten the faith of the society and its security and stability. Faith is the main target to be protected by them. Therefore, the attack and assault on the faith of the society is the most horrendous crime of all. The security man should direct all his efforts towards resisting and exposing anyone who threatens this faith.

Brother security man, you may be sharing with us the opinion that your duty has unfortunately been reduced to terrorising the people, following and threatening them and causing harm and distress to them and their families, rather than being allowed to concentrate on the legitimate duties previously mentioned.

Secondly, the regime is consistently attempting to name the preacher of reform as a cause of adversity in society and preachers of turmoil. This, in reality, has no basis of truth, as the protests we carry out are our legitimate rights and even more so, they are a moral obligation to all. What sort of turmoil could possibly result from our peaceful demands for the release of the scholars and reformers and to demolish the siege on the reform process?

Thirdly, we are the most concerned people regarding the keeping of the security and stability of the country and the following Koranic verses indicate that the protection of the people and society is the call for good action and the forbiddance of wrong doing.

Allah (SWT) [Subhanah Wa Ta'ala—Almighty] said: "When they disregarded the warnings that had been given them, we rescued those who forbade evil, but we visited the wrong doers with a grievous punishment because they committed transgression."

This Verse (Aya) indicates that the reason behind the escape from the punishment of Allah is by forbidding wrong doing. The reason behind destruction and decline is the insistence on corruption, Allah (SWT) said: "Were there not among the generations before you, persons who were possessed Of balanced good sense prohibiting men from mischief on earth, except a few among them who we saved (from harm), but the wrong doers pursued the enjoyment of the hedonistic pleasures of life and persisted in sin and were criminals."

The explanation for the above is that there were, in the generations past, a few people who forbade wrong, doing and those are the ones saved when the anger of the Creator descends.

That is why Allah instructed this Nation by saying "Let there be a group from you inviting people to the Good and to command virtuous actions and to enjoin the evil ones." It is in the Hadith that, "when people see wrong and do not attempt to change it, the people will then be on the brink of an all encompassing punishment by Allah."

What is a more serious wrong, a graver injustice, than fighting the active scholars and sincere reformers whose major concern is to amend whatever has been spoiled amongst the people?

Fourthly, the relative peace and security we were living in until recently is not because we are in a state highly superior with regard to security, but because of the peaceful and pious nature of the people of the Arabian

Peninsula. The increasing crime rate is proportional to the war against scholars and the siege on reform.

Fifthly, the case we foster and preach to is not a special case for a particular section of the society, but it concerns the whole society with all its classes, as the oppression is a practical fact for the overwhelming majority .

Sixthly, Brother Security man, we would remind you that the Nation is waiting to see you in the fields of Honour and Jihad, protecting our faith, and it is not waiting to see you fully armed at the doors of the mosque terrorising the worshipers.

Do not disappoint the Nation!

Opposition Said To Advance South of Irbil

LD2303200295 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation
Press Release in English 1825 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq (23 March)—An Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation correspondent reported today that forces loyal to the Iraqi National Congress advanced towards Taqtaq and Shawan [names as received], 50 km southeast of Irbil in the early morning of 22 March. They advanced toward the 1st battalion 44th brigade [as received] of the Iraqi army.

Twenty five soldiers and officers from the Iraqi army joined the opposition forces. Equipment captured included:

3 D.Sh.K. 14.5 mm heavy machine guns
80 Kalashnikov rifles
10 RPG-7 light anti-tank weapons
8 mortars
20,000 Kalashnikov rounds
Night vision equipment and other technical equipment.

Regime Shelling of Kurdish Areas Reported

NC2303160995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of
Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The dictatorial regime's forces shelled (Mujamma' Shurash) in the Qada' Cham-chamal on Wednesday night [22 March]. The fascist enemy used mortars and 57-mm guns in the bombardment, which injured three citizens, including two children. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime has also continued its barbaric bombardment of the liberated areas of Kurdistan. The Iraqi regime's artillery shelled the villages and hills surrounding the town of Klar on the night of 21-22 March. But the enemy bombardment caused no casualties, thanks be to God.

Fighting Continues Between PKK, Turkish Army in North

LD2303165595 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation
Press Release in English 1517 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq (23 March)—An Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Zakho reported today that clashes are continuing between the Turkish army and the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] in northern Iraq. Turkish troops have entered Dargar Ajam and are advancing towards Shiranish, 15 km northeast of Zakho. PKK forces are resisting the Turkish advance in the Shiranish area.

Fighting is also taking place in the Khwakurk mountain area inside Iraqi territory near the Iranian border. The

Turkish army is using airborne troops in some of the fighting. Some of the Turkish forces are using Saddam's palace in Sarsang as a base.

Kurdish Parliament Condemns Turkish Invasion

NC2303161095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of
Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 95

["Text" of statement issued by the Kurdish National Council on 21 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, the Turkish Army has once again violated the borders of the region of Kurdistan on the night of 19-21 March, entered several areas of Iraq's Kurdistan, and encircled and besieged a number of villages and residential complexes in the Zakho area. The Turkish Army has harmed many civilians.

In the name of the Kurdish parliament, we strongly condemn the atrocious Turkish aggression and call on the international community, the decision-making countries, and the friends of our people to expose and condemn this military invasion by the Turkish Army in order to protect security and peace in the region.

Kurdish Speaker Hails Autonomy

JN2303185595 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
11 Mar 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our great people today celebrate the 25th anniversary of the historic 11 March declaration and the 21st anniversary of the autonomy law and recall those bright pages, persevering efforts, and comprehensive, courageous, and principled solutions pursued by the leadership of the party and the revolution in order to formulate and build the bases of national unity. AL-'IRAQ hosts on its pages on this immortal occasion in the history of our great people in general and the Kurdish people in particular Baha' al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council in the Kurdistan Autonomous region. [passage omitted]

Baha' al-Din Ahmad said: No doubt, the historical significance of this great national achievement lies not only lie in the fact that it has granted our Kurdish people their national rights for the first time, but also in the fact that is a clear expression of the Ba'th Party's principleness, revolutionism, and sublime noble aims. It is also a response to the will of its strugglers. Thus, it is a true expression of the blessed 17-30- July Revolution and its victorious march on the path of national principles, aims, and aspirations under leader President Saddam Husayn, the engineer of autonomy who has always understood and believed that a solution of the Kurdish issue—with its foreign complications and interferences—on a principled, national, and humanitarian basis is the only sound and correct way to build national unity on firm and strong bases which carry the factors and conditions of its perpetuity. [passage omitted]

The speaker of the Legislative Council continued: The leader president has achieved for our people what the Kurds have dreamed of for centuries. By acknowledging Kurdish rights, his excellency created the constitutional and legal reality that led to the establishment of official institutions for the Kurdish people's development and progress in all the economic, social, and cultural fields. This is in addition to the establishment of democratic institutions such as the Legislative Council and the Executive Council within the general progress of Iraqi society as a whole. Thus, Iraqi Kurdistan began to develop and prosper under the supervision, concern, interest, and care of his excellency the president and built a big cultural edifice.

Baha' al-Din Ahmad said: The years after the issuance of the autonomy law were years of construction of the new reality in the Kurdistan Region. In addition to enabling the Kurdish people to exercise their full national rights with completely freedom by nominating and electing their representatives in the Legislative and Executive Councils, as well as in the leaderships of the various popular organizations, the revolution, under the care and attention of the leader, ensured all the requirements for cultural development in the region in order to compensate the region for the years of darkness and backwardness experienced before the revolution. The autonomous institutions played an active and constructive role in fulfilling the great objectives of the revolution by achieving prosperity and development for the citizens—hence the building of schools, hospitals, health centers, kindergartens, modern highways, and bringing water and electricity to remote Kurdish villages. They also carried out productive projects, improved agriculture, built modern cities and creative tourist projects. These were the basic pillars which the great July revolution entrenched to develop the region and improve the conditions of our Kurdish people.

Continuing, speaker Baha' al-Din Ahmad said: All good, honest, and sincere people, and even the enemies, feel deep in their hearts that struggler leader Saddam Husayn is the real guarantee of our Kurdish people and the symbol of their cultural progress and awakening. Therefore, the enemies do not want our people to achieve any development and progress. The proof is clear to all today. Iraq is the only country in the region to acknowledge Kurdish national rights as part of the Iraqi people. This is the main substance of the autonomy law. On the other hand, Kurds in the neighboring states are being subjected to the most hideous forms of coercion, suppression, and persecution, although the Kurdish population in those states is higher than it is in Iraq. Kurds are not only deprived of the right to speak their national language and to exercise their national customs, but conditions in one of these states have reached a point where individuals are tortured simply because they have expressed a national aspiration or sought a cultural or social option. Despite all these paradoxes, what make us cry and laugh at the same time, are the mean acts of the enemies of our people and homeland who bemoan

through the trumpets of Western imperialist propaganda the rights of Iraqi Kurds and forget the Kurds in the neighboring states, despite the fact that our people here are the only ones who are enjoying their national rights. It is obvious, therefore, that our enemies want to put out the flame of this great national achievement, which infuriates them and reveals their terrorism and falsehood. They do not want the autonomous experiment to continue in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Speaker Baha' al-Din Ahmad said: As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the historic 11 March declaration today it is clear to all that the 11 March declaration was a firm, principled political commitment on which there is no going back, no matter what. It is also clear that the spearheads, plans, programs, and forces of the foreigner are all directed toward one objective, which is to destroy Iraq, humiliate its people, and divide it into small warring states. All mean methods are being used to provoke grudges, create problems, and cause Iraqi blood, which the immortal 11 March 1970 declaration had stemmed, to flow anew, because they do not want our people to enjoy stability, security, and stability and solve their own problems. Thus, the enemies are maliciously opposing any national solution.

The speaker concluded: However, through his wisdom and magnanimity our wise leader was able to foil all the plans of the enemies and to expose their false claims. Thus also came the cabinet's initiative to give a historic chance to the factions, which are fighting over leadership and authority, to start a new page in the service of our rising Iraq under the leadership of the engineer of autonomy and to end the state of chaos and lack of security so all efforts will be devoted to strengthening national unity, foiling suspect plans, and creating suitable circumstances for our Kurdish people to enjoy and develop their legitimate national rights after putting an end to these bloody conflicts and restoring normal life to the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. We hope that all sincere people will respond to this wise decision and realize that the unity of the Arabs and Kurds within the single Iraqi tent and under the high-waving flag of our symbol leader Saddam Husayn is a basic factor for guaranteeing the unity, independence, and sovereignty of Iraq and preserving the gains and achievements which have been made for the Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan. It behooves the sons of our Kurdish people to reject the tribulation they are going through under terrorism, suppression, and exposed foreign interference. We have had enough of tragedies, deprivation, tears, instability, and being tools for the achieving the interests of the foreigner. The masses in the region must devote themselves to building our beloved homeland and the future of a new generation. They must understand that the Kurdish issue can only be resolved through the one Iraq under the flag of our leader struggler Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Barzani, Talabani Trade Accusations

JN2303184895 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
11 Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-'IRAQ exclusive report: The fighting which stopped by an American order—which agent Ahmad al-Jalabi, in his capacity as a spy, communicated to his colleague in agency and espionage Jalal [Talabani], who has been pleased with the order since it has relieved him of the dilemma of collapse—has broken out again.

This is the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, about which certain suspect news media have disseminated several claims in the past few days coming from agents al-Jalabi, Jalal, and the professional thief and killer Kosrat. The facts cannot be kept secret for a long, despite the blackout and the lies published by certain news media. These lies were exposed in a statement Mas'ud Barzani issued on 9 March 1995 in which he said the followers of agent Jalal "have not spared any opportunity to direct all kinds of slander at the positions maintained by the Democratic Party of Kurdistan."

Barzani added that Jalal "thinks his behavior will save him from collapse and provide him with a cover for his successive military defeats."

Barzani described the statements by agent Jalal, his followers, and news media "as resoundingly false statements that indicate hallucinations."

The Turkish newspaper TURKISH DAILY NEWS published two interviews with agents Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani on 8 March 1995. The agents revealed in these interviews the reasons behind the fierce battles between their gangs, such as the seizure of the funds of our Kurdish people, who are groaning under the yoke of terrorism and tyranny in those areas of the autonomous region under the control of the hiring agents.

Barzani and Talabani accused one another of being responsible for the bloody fighting taking place between them, whose price is being paid by the blood of our Kurdish people.

In the interview with the Turkish paper, agent Mas'ud Barzani said one of the causes of the war is Talabani's fear of the "elections" since, according to this agent, their results would favor the Barzani gang.

Barzani held the Talabani group responsible for the continuation of the fighting in the region, describing the current situation as a military coup by Talabani, especially after seizing Irbil.

Agent Barzani accused Talabani's followers of seeking to monopolize power and described them as dictators and cheaters.

Barzani admitted the failure of the so-called "Kurdistan Government," saying it has not offer anything to the Kurds. He said that the illegitimacy of that government began with Kosrat Rasul.

Barzani then responded to the Talabani gang's accusations that the main cause of the clashes between the two sides is the disagreement on sharing the revenues from the al-Khabur border post. Barzani said: They are lying. They have stolen \$14 million from that post, \$2 million from the al-Sulaymaniyah cement factory, and about \$300,000 from citizens' deposits in the banks, as well as from other customs revenues.

As for agent Jalal Talabani, he told the same paper that agent Barzani violated an earlier agreement between the two gangs which should have continued until the end of the century. He explained that he was surprised by Barzani gang's occupation of the town of Shaqlawah and the burning of his house, claiming that there was no reason for this war.

As usual, agent Talabani accused the Barzani gang of stealing the revenues of the so-called "Kurdistan Government" in May 1994. However, he could not deny that his gang has also stolen customs and other revenues. But he claimed he returned the revenues to "the government" while Barzani did not follow suit.

Talabani disclosed that the Barzani gang received \$30 million in revenues and that Mas'ud Barzani's monthly wage reached \$60,000.

Talabani accused Barzani's followers of planning to destroy the city of Irbil, explaining that Barzani himself had said he would destroy that city with artillery because he could not stand the existence of a city called Irbil without his party in it.

Talabani said his relationship with the government of Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has continued to weaken due to certain circles in that government which believe the Talabani gang has a program to establish a Kurdish state in the region.

Talabani said: I believe it is difficult under the present Turkish Government to restore the confidence between us, because the government of Tansu Ciller is not willing to conduct any form of dialogue with us.

INC Member Appeals to Army To Renounce Saddam

LD2203135595 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation
Press Release in English 1218 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Received via fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq (21 March)—Field Marshal Hasan al-Naqib, a member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC] appeared on IBC television today to appeal to the Iraqi Army to renounce the regime of Saddam Husayn and join the forces loyal to the INC.

IBC television broadcasts are widely seen in northern Iraq and have been received as far south as Baghdad

Minister Affirms Internal Security Forces Defend Country*JN2203193395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
9 Mar 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has affirmed that the main task of the internal security forces, which are linked to the formations of the Interior Ministry, is to carry out the directives of leader struggler and President Saddam Husayn in protecting the security of the homeland and the citizen and defending human rights.

Speaking at a seminar organized by Al-Bakr University for Higher Military Studies on the strategy of the Interior Ministry, the minister said the tasks carried out by the ministry and the improvement witnessed in the fulfillment of these tasks have strengthened the citizen's confidence in these organizations, which were established to protect him and ensure his security and stability.

The minister said the work of the ministry's departments is aimed at making the man in the internal security forces a security man who protects the citizens' rights and freedom, defending the supremacy of the law, and protecting right and justice.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan explained that the ministry has entered the first line of defense of the homeland as a fighting force and has contributed to confronting the unjust blockade and economic sabotage in addition to its other known security tasks.

The minister affirmed that the various effective measures taken by the ministry in the field of building the bridges of confidence and interaction with the citizens and listening to their problems, opinions, proposals, and complaints directly and in trying to find solutions to them through the different channels of public communication, democratic interaction, and openness to the press, as well as organizing direct seminars with the citizens, have had a great effect in strengthening the interaction between the ministry's departments and the citizens.

Reportage on Pro-Saddam Statements, Holding of Rallies**Kurdish Council Chiefs Cable Greetings***JN2303183195 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
11 Mar 95 pp 1,6*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has received cables pledging loyalty and allegiance from the speaker of the Legislative Council and the head of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region on the 25th anniversary of the historic 11 March 1970 declaration and the 21st anniversary of the autonomy law.

In his cable, Legislative Council Speaker Baha' al-Din Ahmad said: On the 25th anniversary of the historic 11 March Declaration and the 21st anniversary of the

autonomy law, as well as on the occasion of our Kurdish people's March and Nawruz celebrations I extend to your excellency in my name and on behalf of the members of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region and all devout sons of our Kurdish people our most sincere expressions of appreciation and respect and bless your historical leading role in resolving the Kurdish issue and enabling our Kurdish people to enjoy all their national and cultural rights. We affirm our absolute belief in the inevitable disappearance of the evil which has befallen Kurdistan today due to foreign interference and the agents' control of our people's resources. I affirm that the representatives of our Kurdish people and all their righteous sons renew the pledge of allegiance, loyalty, and devotion to the engineer of autonomy and builder of great Iraq's dignity. We pledge that we shall remain one rank behind your wise leadership and that Iraq—from the extreme north to the extreme south—shall remain one single homeland for all Iraqis: Arabs, Kurds and fraternized minorities and that the new Iraq will remain strong and victorious, God willing, under your high-waving flag.

In his cable, Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, head of the Executive Council, said: On the occasion of our Kurdish people's celebrations of the March and Nawruz holidays, it pleases me to extend to your excellency in my name and on behalf of the members of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region and all devout sons of our Kurdish people our sincerest expressions of appreciation and respect. We pray to God almighty to preserve you as an asset for our brave homeland and to protect this homeland from enemy plots and plotters. We pledge to your excellency that we shall remain loyal to Saddam Husayn's great army and struggle school, which is deeply rooted in the land and spreads construction, struggle, and the message. By celebrating this glorious occasion despite the odious foreign presence and the domination of the sabotage gangs which are fighting one another in order to settle their own accounts and break their own bones, our Kurdish people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region are in fact expressing their Iraqism and nobility, as well as their rejection of all the plots hatched by the rancorous circles against Iraq and its national unity. They emphasize their firm solidarity behind the glorious flag of Allahu Akbar while appreciating your great pioneering role in achieving their national and cultural rights within the framework of the homeland of the Arabs, Kurds, and minorities.

Tribes Declare Allegiance*JN2303171595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
10 Mar 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] The districts, subdistricts, and marshlands of al-Basrah Governorate witnessed during the past five days massive tribal rallies during which hundreds of thousands of citizens, carrying pictures of the leader and flags of great Iraq, declared their permanent allegiance and absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn.

Part of these rallies were attended by comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi Qar; Latih Mahal Humud, governor of al-Basrah; and comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, secretary of the al-Basrah party branch leadership. The crowds declared their affection for and loyalty to the leader president and renewed their pledge to stand as one rank behind his blessed and high-waving flag to confront whoever contemplates undermining the steadfastness and power of our great Iraq.

The tribes of Al-Bu-Nasir, al-Lutayfat, Al-Bu-Bazzun, Al-Bu-Nimr, al-Takaritah, al-Hadithin, al-Shayayishah, Al-Bu-Khashman, and al-Duriyin as well as the tribe of Ghalib Mahmud al-Khattab renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers with their swords unleashed in the faces of the enemies.

During a rally in the District of Tikrit, Salah al-Din Governorate, which was attended by comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of Salah al-Din and al-Nabar; Ghazi Ahmad al-Khattab, governor of Salah al-Din; and the comrades secretary and members of the party branch leadership in Salah al-Din the tribesmen expressed their full readiness to make any sacrifice in defense of the honor and dignity of brave Iraq.

The multitudes of tribesmen in the District of Khanaqin, Diyala Governorate, renewed their affection for and absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn and pledged that they will remain unleashed swords to chop off the rotten heads which dare to undermine the security and stability of great Iraq.

During a rally attended by Muzhir Matani 'Awwad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in Diyala and Tu'mah Du'ayyif Kitan, and governor of Diyala, the tribesmen expressed their readiness to make any sacrifice and to use all their energies in order to foil the plans of the rancorous enemies.

Tribal chiefs in the Governorate of Maysan renewed the pledge of absolute loyalty to leader struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, affirming their solidarity behind the flag of right and jihad, the flag of Allahu Akbar, which is carried by his excellency.

Tribal and clan chiefs of Khafajah, Abu-al-'Ubaytah, al-Harakisah, al-Subayh, and al-Saray made statements to AL-THAWRAH in which they denounced the hostile calumnies and false allegations which the United States and its collaborators are directing at the Iraqis. They affirmed that the sons of these tribes are ready for a signal by the leader to strike with full strength at whoever contemplates encroaching on Iraq's soil and sovereignty.

Rallies in Al-Basrah, Dhi Qar, Wasit, Maysan

JN2203194795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
8 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of tribal and clan chiefs and citizens have massed in the District of al-Zubayr, al-Basrah Governorate, in the largest public rally to be witnessed by the district in order to renew the pledge of affection and allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn.

The rally was attended by comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi Qar; Latif Mahal Humud, governor of al-Basrah; and comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, secretary of al-Basrah party branch leadership. It hailed the unique historical leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and affirmed that the ralliers shall remain constant projects of loyalty, sacrifice, and challenge, deriving from his excellency the spirit of determination on the path of defeating the plots of the evil and rancorous and foiling their sick plans at any cost.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq affirmed that the brave leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and the solidarity of his patient and steadfast people behind the flag of Allahu Akbar are sufficient to foil all conspiratorial attempts and to expose the evil intentions of the U.S. Administration, which seeks to prolong the blockade despite the fact that Iraq has implemented all Security Council resolutions.

Addressing tribal and clan chiefs and aldermen in the Governorate of Dhi Qar, comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq said: Our people's defiant spirit and continuation of the work of development and construction, despite the continuation of the blockade, will achieve the crossing to the bank of dignity. He affirmed the need for concerting all efforts and capabilities in order to deprive the enemies of any opportunity to achieve their designs.

The tribal and clan chiefs renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain the loyal soldiers of great Iraq.

Comrade 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of Maysan and Wasit, said the values of steadfastness and patience which the Iraqis asserted during the Mother of Battles confirm their deep affiliation to the homeland and solidarity with the leader Saddam Husayn, who is continuing his struggle course, backed by the Iraqis with hearts filled with faith and patience in order to crown the crossing march with final victory.

Rally in Saddamiyat Al-Qurnah

JN2103173995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
9 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah—The District of Saddamiyat al-Qurnah, al-Basrah Governorate, yesterday

witnessed a large public rally attended by tribal and clan chiefs, aldermen, and multitudes of citizens in which they affirmed their absolute loyalty to and permanent allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn.

During this rally, which was attended by Latif Mahal Humud, governor of al-Basrah, and comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, secretary of al-Basrah party branch leadership, the brave sons of the district hailed the heroic stand of leader President Saddam Husayn against the plots of the enemies and affirmed their full readiness to make every sacrifice in defense of Iraq—land, history, and civilization.

They expressed through cheers and songs, as they waved pictures of the leader president and held their arms, Iraqi flags, and tribal banners high, that they shall remain a sharp sword in the right hand of the leader to chop off the rotten heads that dare to encroach on our great Iraq. They also affirmed that they are ready for any orders by the president and that they shall remain loyal soldiers for the principles, homeland, and leader.

Concluding their rally, the tribesmen renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn in a cable they sent to his excellency affirming that they remain constantly ready for martyrdom until the renegade enemies heed the logic of right and justice.

Rally in Diyala

*JN2103171695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
9 Mar 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Jubur tribesmen in the village of Tall al-Naqqar and tribesmen of Jibarah Village in the district of Kafri, Diyala Governorate, have pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers in defense of the dignity of great Iraq.

They affirmed in two rallies, which were attended by comrade Muzhir Matani 'Awwad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in Diyala Governorate, and Tu'mah Dua'yyif Kitan, governor of Diyala, that they will devote all their energy and efforts to increasing production in order to foil the crime of the unfair blockade that has been imposed on our people until the crossing to the bank of victory is achieved.

Saddam Orders 71 Million Dinars for Marshland Villages

*JN2303170695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
10 Mar 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 71 million dinars for developing health, cultural, electricity, and water services in the marshland villages on the al-'Izz River in al-Basrah Governorate.

Announcing this to the Iraqi News Agency correspondent in the governorate, Governor Latif Mahal Humud

said: This generous offer, which reflects leader President Saddam Husayn's care for the sons of his people, will be used to build health clinics, a veterinary clinic, drinking water reservoirs, and to develop electricity services.

The governor added that the leader president had previously allocated 35 million dinars for building five drinking water reservoirs, each with a storage capacity of 250,000 gallons, two health centers, and three schools, as well as supplying electricity to citizens' homes.

Ramadan Addresses Symposium on French Ties

*JN1703204495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
14 Mar 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—INA—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the Iraqi people, having firmly confronted the five-year unjust blockade, are capable of thwarting all designs aimed to harm their sovereignty and national security. Addressing the opening session of the symposium concerning Iraqi-French relations and their future prospects yesterday, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that future relations cannot be built without the people's support. He said this public support cannot be placed on the right track without the presence of an astute elite among the French friends in France to lead this popular conviction. He said this would bolster and support the activity and role of the French Government leaders to restore French-Iraqi relations to normal.

He added that the future prospects of French-Iraqi relations can only be built on sound bases. The vice president urged French intellectuals to assume their responsibility toward mobilizing French citizens against the blockade imposed on Iraq. He urged them to highlight the need to have the blockade lifted since Iraq has honored all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions. He indicated that friendship with Iraq is useful rather than burdensome. He indicated that friendship with Iraq constitutes for France a support and an important gateway for a French role in the international arena. He said that there is no Third World country with which relations can add to the weight of the French role in the international arena more than Iraq.

Ba'th Party, Egyptian Party Sign Joint Work Program

*JN2103184995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1712 GMT
21 Mar 99*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and the Egyptian Liberal Party signed their joint work program here today.

The program was signed for the ASBP by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau in the Iraq Command of the ASBP, and by Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Egyptian Liberal Party.

The program includes formulas for cooperation and coordination between the two parties in various fields in the Arab and international arenas, and coordination at international conferences and forums. It calls for continuing efforts aimed to acquaint Arab and international public opinion with the tragic results of the continuation of the siege imposed on Iraq and for working with all possible means to lift this siege. The program also calls for the exchange of visits and consultations.

Columnist: Albright Example of 'Political Adolescence'

JN1703180695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
13 Mar 95 p 8

[Column by Sayf al-Jarrah: "Mrs. Albright!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The stage of human adolescence ends within a decade or less. But U.S. political adolescence has been continuing for decades. Mrs. Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and the Security Council, is an expressive example of that political adolescence, which leads to unrestrained, hasty, inaccurate, and unobjective actions.

In her "second" adolescence, Mrs. Albright yearns, among other things, for higher positions. In its permanent adolescence, the U.S. Administration shows the narcissism of the super and "most handsome" power. Between the personal and general adolescence, the lady moves, travels, yells, and issues orders to certain "gentlemen" in leading positions without any observance of the prevalent norms. When the lady found that world public opinion and the majority at the United Nations and the Security Council tend to seek justice and common sense to end or ease the blockade against the Iraqi people, the lady did not find it at all embarrassing to accuse the entire international organization of being unintelligent. Beside reflecting brazenness and a lack of taste, this charge is inaccurate and unobjective. This is because intelligence is an individual and personal trait which cannot be measured when referring to a group of people representing various nations with diverse cultures and convictions.

Columnist Assails U.S. Policy, 'Propaganda'

JN1803184895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
13 Mar 95 p 8

["AL-THAWRAH Diary" column by Wadi' al-Muzaffar: "The Last Card"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The state of madness, hysteria, and hallucination that governs the acts and behavior of the U.S. Administration these days reminds me of a dialogue I once held with a moderate French journalist whom I met by chance at a book fair in an Arab capital. He said to me: "The Iraqi people's determination and steadfastness, which I and every fair and honorable person in the world, must admire and appreciate, will one day make the United States lose its mind."

He added: "I believe that the coming months will confuse U.S. policy toward Iraq and will make the United States appear to act like a young teenager and not like a superpower. This is because it is facing a solid wall, a courageous leader, and a great nation that has no counterpart in history. Therefore, the United States will certainly go mad, and I expect victory for you and collapse for them."

Anyone who is aware of U.S. actions will notice that before each review of the unjust blockade, this administration goes into a state of hysteria, confusion, and hallucination. Although it has used all its cards, all its tricks, all its agents, and all the villainy and malevolence of its intelligence services, the administration still found Iraq to be strong and impregnable. The begging tour of the United States' UN representative, Albright, her cheap propaganda, and the threats she leveled during the tour were met negatively by most of the countries she visited. Therefore, the U.S. Administration has returned to its old policies and begun to use its hireling trumpets to launch an intensive and false propaganda campaign against Iraq.

These aggressive evildoers and their hireling trumpets believe that through their tendentious rumors and rotten and sick minds, they can conspire against nations, foment seditions, and spread rumors. We have told these dwarfs time and again that Iraq's wall is too strong to be penetrated because it is the wall of right, justice, principles, noble values, manhood, courage, and pride. It is great leader Saddam Husayn's wall, which broke all the arrows of the hostile and vile Persian, American, Zionist, and British agents and swindlers. Ignominy to these hireling trumpets, whose eyes were blinded by the dollars of the oil shaykhs.

Last but not least, we tell these mad people that Iraq's wall is very strong, that the Iraqi home is very strong, and that the will of our leader is even stronger. He who has a glass house should keep silent and should not throw stones at honorable people.

Only the hollow dreamers are wagering on the division of Iraq, creating rumors, and exporting sedition. We say to them: Die of you wrath. Our Saddam is in our hearts and minds. He is our soul. Through his wisdom, courage, and shrewdness, we will soon achieve certain victory, God willing.

It is your last card, and we will have our say at the right time.

Paper Assails Christopher's Remarks, 'Exposed Blackmail'

JN2303083195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT
23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described as cheap and

hypocritical the role Washington is playing in the Arabian Gulf region to market its presence, maintain its hegemony, and continue its flagrant occupation of the region.

In an article today entitled "Christopher's Statements and the Exposed Blackmail," the paper says the U.S. Administration does not hesitate for a moment to market its regional role, which includes political, military, and economic cover-ups, and to depict it as a vital role that will save the region from the threats posed to it.

AL-THAWRAH describes Christopher's statements to THE WASHINGTON TIMES on his recent regional tour as a deception operation that has begun to be exposed. This operation is aimed at maintaining the illusion that a serious threat is posed to the region by the neighboring countries, Iraq and Iran. It also aims to market the so-called double containment policy.

The paper adds that the policy of terrorizing and intimidating the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, is an exposed policy that seeks to turn the U.S. presence into a continued occupation and keep these countries as mere protectorates. Even if there were no threats whatsoever, the United States would have created ghosts in order to justify its presence and receive the price of its occupation.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that the U.S. Administration is using Iran, blowing it out of proportion, and benefiting from its threatening role in order to take over Iran's current role and justify occupying and looting the region. At any rate, this is not a new role; the United States played this role during and after the Shah's rule.

Concluding its article, the paper wonders about the real party threatening the Gulf, commandeering its political decisionmaking, canceling its role, looting it completely, and continuing to occupy it. It points out that this cheap deception by the Americans has become very silly and meaningless.

UN Envoy Protests 'Continued Iranian Violations'

*JN1403154395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT
14 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 14 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations about continued Iranian violations of the cease-fire resolution between 8-16 February.

A letter sent by Iraq's permanent representative to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said the violations included installing an observation post, building another post, and setting up barbed wire in front of the al-Fakkah police station in the buffer zone. In addition, an artillery shell fell inside Iraqi territory and an antitank gun has been set up in the Iranian region in front of al-Salamijah.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter be circulated and considered a Security Council document.

U.S., Allied 'Violations,' 'Aggression' Protested

11-18 Feb U.S. 'Violations' Protested

*JN0903125295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT
9 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 9 Mar (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations against continued U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace and against the dropping of flares with the aim of surveillance and provocation.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's UN representative said U.S. aircraft carried out 561 hostile sorties 11-18 February. U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft carried out seven violations during the same period. Other U.S. aircraft dropped 11 flares on residential areas in Dahuk governorate, the letter added.

Iraq's permanent UN representative demanded distributing the letter among the member states as a Security Council document and taking cognizance of it.

22-28 Feb Allied 'Violations' Reported

*JN0903120595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT
9 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against violations of Iraq's airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft that take off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said the U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace 22-28 February after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These aircraft carried out 471 hostile air sorties, the letter added.

Iraq's permanent representative demanded that the letter be distributed among the Arab League's member states.

1-10 Mar U.S. 'Violations' Reported

*JN1703095595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT
17 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations, 17 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that U.S. aircraft have continued their violations of Iraqi airspace on reconnaissance and provocative missions. U.S. aircraft have also dropped flares and broke the sound barrier.

In a letter he sent yesterday to the UN secretary general, Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, said between 1 and 10 March, U.S. aircraft conducted 908 hostile sorties, as well as several provocative sorties to drop flares and break the sound barrier.

Iraq's permanent envoy asked that the letter be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

1-8 Mar Allied 'Violations' Protested to League

*JN2103184595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq said these violations constitute a grave threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter he handed to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League said that between 1-8 March, these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace and conducted 572 hostile sorties after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Iraqi envoy asked that the letter be distributed to the Arab League member states to inform them of these regrettable facts.

9-16 Mar U.S. Sorties Protested

*JN2303090495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT
23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the Arab League against the violation of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft, which pose a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a message delivered to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent League representative said these aircraft carried out 618 hostile air sorties 9-16 March after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

He requested that the message be distributed among the Arab League member states, so they can acquaint themselves with these regrettable facts.

U.S. 'Aggression' on Fishing Boat Protested

*JN1003120995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq officially informed the United Nations today about the U.S. aggression on Iraqi fishing boat "al-Bay'ah" off the Arabian Peninsula.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's Permanent Representative Ambassador Nizar Hamdun said these incidents confirm the U.S. Government's hostile and premeditated designs against Iraq and its insistence on provoking it within its territorial waters in order to fabricate excuses.

Hamdun said U.S. military vessel No. 22 intercepted the Iraqi fishing boat "al-Ba'yah", which was fishing in Iraqi territorial waters south of the Port of al-Bakr. He said another U.S. aggression was carried out against the Iraqi vessel on 2 March by warship No. 40. The U.S. warship provoked the crew of Iraqi vessel and asked about its length, speed, and tonnage.

Vice President Gore Arrives, Meets With Leaders**Weizman, Gore Meet***TA2303163795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President 'Ezer Weizman today told U.S. Vice President Al Gore that he expects Bill Clinton to play an active role in efforts to bring about a direct dialogue between Israeli and Syrian leaders. During the ceremony held for Al Gore in the president's residence in Jerusalem, the guest said his country is determined to stand by Israel and to minimize the risks it takes. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports:

[Begin recording] [El'azar] From Ben-Gurion Airport, Al Gore was directly taken to the luxurious dining hall at the president's residence, where he was met by the senior Israeli echelon, from the prime minister and ministers to the president of the Supreme Court, the Knesset speaker, and the state comptroller. They all received the guest with great excitement.

President Weizman, who spoke in English, mentioned the active involvement of Presidents Carter and Clinton in attaining peace with Egypt and Jordan:

[Weizman, in English] I am sure that something similar has to happen. A direct dialogue with the Syrians and an influence of the President of the United States to achieve the peace, because if we don't there might be certain developments which I wouldn't like to describe now what can happen. [sentence as heard] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Gore Receives Honorary Doctorate*TA2303165495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who has arrived this afternoon in Israel, received an honorary philosophy doctorate at the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem. In his citation, university rector Professor Ben-Arye referred to Gore's fight for the environment, his support of Israel, and his contribution to the political process. [passage omitted]

Gore Meets Rabin, Peres*TA2303202795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told U.S. Vice President Al Gore that the understandings reached between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, which say the negotiations on the implementation of the second stage of the interim agreement will be concluded by the end of June 1995, were made under the condition that 'Arafat proves he is taking resolute action against terrorism.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister thus stated for the first time that the fulfillment of Israel's demands were a precondition for concluding the negotiations in time for the scheduled target date. Rabin warned that there would be a problem unless 'Arafat was capable of demonstrating greater efficiency in fighting terrorism inside the autonomous areas.

Vice President Gore replied that at his meeting with 'Arafat tomorrow he would demand that the PLO chairman step up counterterrorism activity.

The prime minister told his guest that the United States should lead the struggle against Iran. Rabin urged President Clinton to take advantage of his visit to Russia to pressure the Russians not to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Vice President Gore that Israel would be prepared to discuss signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] two years after a comprehensive peace between Israel and the entire Arab world. Vice President Gore is the official handling the signing of the NPT on behalf of the U.S. Administration.

Further on Peres-Gore Meeting*TA2403104195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 95 p A2*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Al Gore yesterday that "the current Israeli Government has gained historically, and that even though we might pay for it politically, we will not change our policy. The Israeli public today sees the price for peace and not its fruit. We definitely want to win the elections, but we will continue the peace process despite everything."

The Peres-Gore meeting, which lasted for almost an hour, included a short tete-a-tete. The meeting was devoted to the peace process along the various tracks, regional cooperation, and the differences of opinion between Israel and Egypt on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

"We are now at the second stage with the Palestinians, and the main difficulty is terrorism. There were two incidents this week. We foiled one, but one we did not manage to prevent. We very much hope that the elections (in the territories) will take place as soon as possible, because we believe that they will solidify 'Arafat's rule and calm tempers. We agreed to try to complete the agreement by 1 July, and we are determined in our desire to make progress," Peres said.

The foreign minister said he hopes "that instead of barbed wire and electronic borders, there will be borders of cooperation in the region." He surveyed the various plans for regional cooperation. Gore replied: "Every time I meet with you, you have new ideas, while the old

ones have already been fulfilled. I cannot stop admiring your dedication and your approach to the peace process."

On his plan to set up industrial parks between Israel and the territories, Peres said: "We are now looking for locations and funds. We recruited the World Bank, which will match dollar for dollar Israel or the Palestinians invest. The World Bank also agreed to fund feasibility studies."

The foreign minister also brought up the initiative to set up greenhouses for flowers in the Gaza Strip and advanced agricultural technology, as well as proposals for developing the Israeli-Jordanian border area in the 'Arava, where a railway line, a joint airport, desalination plants, and industrial plants, as well as joint tourism projects, will be set up. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister said: "We want to be sure that the agreement with Syria will lead to the abolition of the Arab boycott and an end to the entire conflict, while fighting fundamentalism and terrorism together."

He recalled Tom Friedman's article in THE NEW YORK TIMES in which he calls Hafiz al-Asad "yesterday's man." "No reply," Gore said.

"We have 20 months until elections, and we are prepared to negotiate with Syria until the very last day," Peres said. To that, Gore responded: "We will come to the ceremony." [passage omitted]

Gore Signs Environment Agreement

TA2403111395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Vice President Al Gore signed an environmental cooperation agreement between Israel and the United States in a ceremony at the Ziv school in Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that Al Gore also visited a computerized ecological research project at the school. Later Al Gore left for a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. This is reported by our correspondent Esti Perez.

Editorial Views Gore's Visit

TA2303125095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Al Gore Is Here"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Al Gore is not an important player on the U.S. political team. The team's manager, coach, and star player is the President, who is surrounded and served by all his colleagues. The vice president does not command any area or government department. Even if he is not the President's rival in the Democratic Party but is his ally and peer and shares his ideas, he might benefit from the President's downfall—which does not enhance his status in the eyes of the only U.S. politician more senior to him.

Al Gore Jr., the son of retired Senator Albert Gore, belongs to the second type. Likened to his President, he is neither negative nor ridiculous, as were Nixon's Agnew and Bush's Quayle. Bill Clinton's failures increase Gore's chances of inheriting him as leader of the Democratic Party, if not on the eve of the 1996 elections—as a replay of Johnson's leaving the stage to his vice president, Humphrey—then four years later, either from within the White House or from the outside.

Therefore, Gore's visit to Israel ("and to Jericho," as announced by the U.S. Embassy, which by citing the name of this city avoided referring to the identity of the entity controlled by the "Palestinian National Authority," a term the Americans borrowed from 'Arafat) is a kind of investment in the future rather than in the current process. Israel must simultaneously look ahead to the immediate future—vis-a-vis Clinton and the Republican majority in Congress—and to the next five years. In the second timeframe, Gore may play some role as Bill Clinton's designated heir or as contender for the job of the defeated President Clinton under a Republican administration.

Israel's main problem with the American public is to justify its argument in favor of aid to Israel and the Arab countries making peace with it at a time of painful cuts in domestic and welfare budgets in the United States. In this respect, Gore—who harbors feelings of friendship toward Israel, as Democratic politicians usually do (before they are forced to compromise with the Black constituencies in their party), and especially as a representative of the mainstream founded by Senator Jackson—could become an advocate of this argument if his visit here helps convince him.

Rabinovich: No Strategic Change in Syrian View

TA2403134595 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, will return to Washington today to continue the talks with his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Mu'allim.

Yesterday, Rabinovich gave Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a detailed briefing on his 21 March meeting with Syrian Ambassador al-Mu'allim. Rabinovich's report indicated that talks between Syrian and Israeli military officers will resume within several weeks. Rabinovich asserted that since Secretary of State Christopher's recent round of talks in Damascus and Jerusalem, there has been a tactical change in Syria's position with regard to the security arrangements. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's strategic goals, however, remain the same.

Jerusalem officials have adopted a cautious approach with regard to the statements made by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who said an agreement between the two countries can be reached within a matter of

months. The officials tend to view these remarks more as a desire to please the U.S. Administration than as representative of Syria's real positions.

Rabinovich said: "It is good to hear serious statements of this kind; however, one must also examine what lies behind them." He ruled out any uncalled for hastiness in the negotiations. "We do not have to rush if al-Asad is in no hurry," Rabinovich said. [passage omitted]

On Talks, 'Special Relations' With U.S.

TA2303154995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States says that it remains unclear whether or not Syria is interested in reaching an agreement with Israel in a reasonable time. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that it has been explained to the Syrians that if they are not in a hurry to reach an agreement then neither is Israel.

Ambassador Rabinovich is returning to Washington this evening and will meet again tomorrow with his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Mu'allim.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 23 March carries an interview with Ambassador Rabinovich by Razi Barqay and Mikhal Gazit. Asked about Syria's opinion of the special relations between Israel and the United States against the backdrop of Vice President Al Gore's visit, Rabinovich replies: "I do not believe Syria will discover anything new in terms of Israeli-U.S. relations. It has understood for some time now that this relationship is very special and close. If three or four years ago Syria still hoped to build its relations with the United States at Israel's expense, now it understands that if it succeeds in forging new relations with the United States, it will not be at the expense of the special relations between Israel and the United States."]

Savir: Representation in Tunis To Open 'Soon'

TA2403112195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says that the Israeli representation in Tunis will open soon. Another Israeli representation will be opened in Oman, this in addition to the representation through the Moroccan Embassy, which flies the Israeli flag. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Nighttime Curfew on Hebron 'Until Further Notice'

TA2303165395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A nighttime curfew is to be in effect in Hebron until further notice from 1800 in the evening, at this hour, until 0500 the next morning.

Military sources tell Qol Yisra'el that the objective is to prevent tensions between Jews and Arabs in the city and to continue the hunt for those responsible for Sunday night's shooting attack on an Egged bus at the entrance to Hebron.

Meretz Supports Establishment of Palestinian State

TA2403070395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leadership of the Meretz Party has decided to support the establishment of a Palestinian state after the elections in the territories. Meretz also calls for an evacuation as quickly as possible of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Meretz party cabinet minister Yosi Sarid has said that a virtual Palestinian state will be established after the Palestinian elections.

The Peace Now movement has also called on the government to evacuate the settlements before a final agreement with the Palestinians. The movement says the Palestinians should be granted self-determination to establish a Palestinian state or enter a confederation with Jordan. It also recommends negotiating the status of Jerusalem.

Rabin To Run for Prime Minister in 1996

TA2303172595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed several minutes ago that he intends to run for prime minister in 1996. Rabin was speaking at a meeting of the Labor Party's Central Committee. A short while ago, the Central Committee endorsed the decision to permit Histadrut Labor Federation Chairman Hayim Ramon's return to the Labor Party. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin recording] [Tal] Several minutes ago, the Labor Party Central Committee called on Hayim Ramon to return home. The Central Committee approved the recommendation made by the committee headed by Eli Goldschmidt to revoke the letters of expulsion sent to Ramon and his colleagues.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the doors had now been opened and there was no viable alternative to the continued rule of the Labor Party. Rabin sharply criticized the Likud and accused them of creating the terror problem. Rabin asked: who established 50 settlements between Ramallah and Alfey Menashe? Who imposed a tremendous burden on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]? The prime minister emphasized that he was not referring to the 'Etzyon Bloc, the Jerusalem area, or the Jordan Rift Valley. Without all this, we could have fought against terrorism more successfully, Rabin asserted. What political plans does the Likud have, Rabin asked? Those who returned every grain of sand in

the Sinai Peninsula, from Sadot through Yamit and Ofira, should keep quiet, Rabin said.

[Rabin] After vowing not to return even one grain of sand, they gave back everything down to the last inch. Therefore, the question we are currently facing is how to confront these knights of holy deception, as our founding fathers called the Likud's revisionist predecessors.

[Tal] Rabin concluded that the Labor Party could only remain in power by presenting a unified position. After some Central Committee members expressed reservations about Hayim Ramon being permitted to return to the party unconditionally, we asked the prime minister for his reaction to the majority decision.

[Rabin] I think that this decision conforms to the proposal presented by the Labor Party Bureau, in a bid to open doors and create the necessary conditions for a higher degree of unity in the party. Our main battle is not against former members who resigned from the party over municipal issues, or even over the Histadrut controversy. The fact is that Hayim Ramon's New Life faction proved more successful than the Labor Party.

[Tal] Before leaving the hall, Prime Minister Rabin was asked whether he intended to run in 1996. Rabin sounded quite definite on the issue.

[Rabin] I am going to manage the government's policy for as long as I can. [end recording]

Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that Hayim Ramon said that the Labor Party must first revoke the expulsion letters it sent to him and his colleagues, and only later would he consent to participate in negotiations over his return to the party.

'Terrorists' Carrying Bombs Arrested in Nabulus

TA2403084495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two terrorists were arrested in Nabulus yesterday in possession of explosive charges ready for use and weapons. A police bomb-disposal expert defused the charges. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the two were carrying photographs in which they are shown bearing firearms.

Minister Refutes Israeli Charges on Entry Permits

JN2103120995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
21 Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan on Monday [20 March] rejected as unfounded Israeli charges that the Kingdom was delaying the issuance of entry permits to Israelis and said a problem of Israelis being turned back at a crossing point last week was the result of misuse of the date specified on the permits by tour operators.

Minister of Tourism 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib also said the best way to solve the problem of clogged tourism traffic from Israel was for Israelis to "spread their visits throughout the week rather than everybody converging on the crossings on Thursdays."

According to the minister, the average number of Israelis visiting Jordan is about 500 per day except on Thursday, when it rises dramatically with Israelis seeking to spend the weekend in the Kingdom.

Under an arrangement between Jordan and Israel, 600 Israelis are allowed in across the northern bridge and 300 across the Wadi al-'Arabah crossing every day.

Any increase in the number would lead to high pressure on the facilities available in Jordan, the minister pointed out.

Mr. al-Khatib said the Ministry of Interior was issuing visas on the same day most applications were received from tour operators.

"At worst, in certain cases, the process takes three days," Mr. al-Khatib told the JORDAN TIMES. "As such, the (Israeli demand) that Jordan speed up the 'entry-visa situation' is unfounded."

The minister was commenting on a "threat" reportedly issued by four Israeli tour operators and the Israeli Travel Agents Association after an "emergency" meeting on Monday that they would boycott Jordan as a tourism destination if their demand was not met.

The Jerusalem Post, which reported Sunday's "threat," did not mention the daily quota arrangement agreed between Jordan and Israel. It quoted Moshe Hananel, manager of Galilee Tours, as saying that Jordan had "to deal with Israeli tourists like they do with tourists from other countries."

It also quoted Mr. Hananel as saying that despite Thursday's incident, when some tourists had to wait for hours before being allowed in or being turned back because of improprieties in their entry visas, there had been no drop in demand for tours to Jordan.

However, he said if the tour operators "see no improvement" in the next 10 days, they would suspend all tours to Jordan.

The problem arose on Thursday when more than 1,000 Israeli tourists were turned back at the peace bridge in the north after the daily quota of 600 across that crossing was completed.

The Jerusalem Post quoted tour operators as saying that many of those turned back had visas issued by Jordanian authorities and some of the tours threatened to sue the agencies.

But, Mr. al-Khatib said, Israeli tour operators did not take into consideration that the visas specified the period of visit and stipulated that tourists should cross into the country on the same date as mentioned in the permit rather than trying to use the permit on any day during the specified period.

Jordan is now issuing visas specifying the date of entry and the period of visit in order to preempt Israelis from misusing the permit, he said, implicitly suggesting that Israeli tour operators were partly to be blamed for not explaining the situation to tourists.

"We think 900 per day is a good number, particularly in view of the limitations on our facilities to cater to the needs of tourists," Mr. al-Khatib said.

The minister said it was not possible for Jordan to increase the number, given that it did not even have the properly equipped buses that meet the requirements of tourism standards to transport the visitors.

Furthermore, he said, Jordanian facilities—hotels, and tourism sites as well as tour agencies—could not overlook "their regular flow of tourists from other parts of the world."

Sources Deny Asking Israelis for Flight Changes

JN2103131895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[FBIS Translated Text] Civil Aviation Authority sources have said that the Jordanian Government did not request permission for Royal Jordanian [RJ] airliners to fly from Beirut airport back to Amman through Israeli airspace.

In response to a question by AL-DUSTUR, the sources said that statements by a spokesman for the Israeli Ministry of Defense lack accuracy and credibility, noting that Jordan did not make such a request to Israel. The sources added: The air routes of our airliners coming from Beirut have not changed. We prefer to fly through Lebanese and Syrian airspace than any other airspace because it cost less.

Israeli Holiday Tourism Rise Prompts Procedures Review

JN2303153495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
23 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian and Israeli tour operators, hotels and Ministry of Tourism officials

on Wednesday [22 March] settled a problem that arose after a large number of Israeli tourists were turned back from the northern crossing into the Kingdom last week, Tourism Minister 'Abd al-'Ilah al-Khatib said.

Solving the problem also meant a better Israeli understanding of the procedures related to Israeli tourists visiting Jordan, and that the Israeli Travel Agents Association and tour operators now understand that there is no delay on the Jordanian side to issue entry permits to Israeli tourists, the minister told the JORDAN TIMES.

"The head of the Israeli Travel Agents Association visited Amman today (Wednesday) and held talks with Jordanian tour operators, hotel executives and Ministry of Tourism officials," Mr. al-Khatib said. "They reviewed the procedures related to the issuance of entry permits to Israeli and related issues."

"Now they understand that there is no delay from the Jordanian side in issuing visas for Israeli tourists," said the minister. "What is needed is a little bit more of organisation, which means that all Israeli tourists coming to Jordan should not choose to come one single day in the week—Thursday."

The problem arose when several hundred Israeli tourists thronged the northern crossing into Jordan last Thursday at the beginning of a Jewish holiday. Their number far exceeded the daily ceiling of 600 set by the Jordanian authorities and, as a result, many of them were turned away.

Under an arrangement between Jordan and Israel, 600 Israeli tourists are allowed in across the northern bridge and 300 across the Wadi al-'Arabah crossing every day. The numbers have been set in accordance with the level of facilities available in Jordan to cater to the needs of the tourists.

As a concession to Israeli tour operators and tourists following last week's incident, Jordan agreed to allow in a higher number on today (Thursday) as a one-time measure, the minister said.

"There is no need for us to increase the number of Israeli tourists that we allow in every day," Mr. al-Khatib said, adding that less than 20,000 Israeli tourists came to Jordan since the beginning of the year.

"The figures speak for themselves," he said, noting that the average daily visitors numbered around 350. "There is still large room for tourists to come," the minister said, referring to the daily ceiling of 900.

The minister said on Sunday that the best way to avoid cloggings at the crossing was for Israelis to "spread their visits throughout the week rather than everybody converging on the crossings on Thursday."

Wednesday's meeting appeared to put to rest a "threat" issued by four Israeli tour operators and the Israeli Travel Agents Association after an "emergency" meeting

on Monday that they would boycott Jordan as a tourism destination if their demand for "speedier" entry procedures was not met.

Report on King's Meeting With Islamists

JN2103145295 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 20 Mar 95
pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report: "Minutes of King's Meeting With Muslim Brotherhood Leaders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When we heard about the meeting between his majesty the king and the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] leaders, AL- MAJD alerted its correspondents and friends to ascertain the facts about this important meeting between the head of the state and the representatives of the broadest popular base.

We began with figures from the two sides, government and Brotherhood—ministers, deputies, and party officials—who heard about but did not participate in the meeting. Then we moved closer, reaching leadership level figures who, while not adding information to what we already had, helped us sort out inaccuracies in the huge volume of material we had been collecting on the meeting for five days. The following are the secrets and details of the meeting:

At noon last Tuesday [14 March], six MB and Islamic Action Front [IAF] leaders were suddenly summoned to meet with his majesty at the Royal Court. Deputy Hamzah Mansur could not be contacted and thus was unable to attend. Lawyer 'Abd-al-Majid al- Dhunaybat, the Brotherhood controller general; and his deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, member of the House of Representatives; Ishaq al- Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front; and his deputy 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyah, member of the Senate; and 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, member of the House of Representatives; went to the Royal court for a meeting with his majesty the king, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim.

At the outset, the king welcomed the MB and IAF leaders, and in a cordial and astute gesture reflecting his position as an arbiter rather than an adversary between the government and the Brotherhood, the king looked at the prime minister and said: What do have to say about the Brotherhood, Abu-Shakir [the prime minister's nickname]?

The prime minister said: We have ascertained that those who perpetrated the attack against the French diplomat at Wadi al-Mawjib belonged to the MB, that this action and the actions that could follow against Jewish tourists in particular and foreigners in general are a collective trend and not an isolated action. The security department possesses clear confessions about an Islamic plan to strike at tourism, undermine the country's security, and escalate action against the peace treaty.

Lawyer al-Dhunaybat replied to the prime minister's observations saying: The MB had nothing to do with the

Wadi al-Mawjib incident. It was an isolated incident and was not carried from a leadership decision at all. We in the MB and IAF rejected and will continue to reject violence and do not allow our youths and popular bases to practice violence at all. On the other hand, you have long been launching storming campaigns and arrests against dozens of people, including many innocent people who have nothing to do with the Islamists. (AL-MAJD has learned that the number of those arrested in al-Karak was 25).

Senator 'Arabiyat and Deputy al-'Akayilah then spoke in detail about the psychological pressure to which the people are subjected because the Jews are roaming about Jordan freely despite the fact that historically they have never honored any covenants.

'Arabiyat and al-'Akayilah also explained the stifling economic conditions and fiercely attacked the unprecedented and arbitrary security practices that followed the Wadi al-Mawjib incident, saying that the Brotherhood has a dossier containing these practices, which they could have brought to the Royal Court if they were not summoned so urgently. While 'Arabiyat read a Koranic verse explaining the Jews' strong hostility toward Muslims and the believers, al-'Akayilah quipped jokingly: We can hardly tolerate the children of Isma'il [Ishmael], how can we put up with the children of Abraham?

The prime minister then replied to the MB and IAF leaders' remarks, striking a calm note and urging them to exercise control over their popular base and youths so that issues will not come to a head, given that the security department's reports indicate a state of anger and indignation among Islamic youths.

His majesty the king inquired as to whether the Koranic verse's reference to hostility was confined to Jews only and if it included the Christians too. 'Arabiyat told him that it was confined to the Jews to the exclusion of all other nations and religions.

Al-Dhunaybat commented on the prime minister's remarks, also striking a calm note, and said: We have been exposed to a large-scale campaign of harassment, beginning with Imam preachers and ending with detainees. We have a number grievances and complaints.

The king said: Write down these grievances and we will consider them seriously and solve them, God willing.

The meeting practically ended at this point. The remainder of the meeting was confined to cordial remarks and compliments reflecting the government's desire to return to a rapprochement with the Brotherhood provided their leadership controls their indignant youths and lead them away from violence, especially against the Zionist tourists.

[The Amman weekly AL-SABIL in its 21-27 March issue publishes the following in a front-page box:

"We have received the following from the MB's Information Bureau:

"With reference to the report in the weekly AL-MAJD dated 20 March on a meeting between his majesty the king and a group of MB and IAF leaders, AL-MAJD correspondent 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib contacted the official in charge of our Information Bureau and asked him about the meeting. The information official declined to make any statements because such meetings are normally announced and reported upon by those who call for them. We will not reveal at present what took place in the meeting and are surprised by what the weekly published in this regard. We blame brother Fahd al-Rimawi [AL-MAJD editor] for publishing this report in contravention of the MB's views, and we decry attempts to obtain information on the meeting from sources that we neither authorize nor rely upon. The report contains many inaccuracies and flaws, contrary to what happened. This fact prompted us to write this explanation. We thank AL-MAJD for its cooperation and hope the spirit of trust and responsibility will be preserved."

Japan To Grant \$11 Million in Aid

JN2203210495 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Japan will grant Jordan 11 million dollars designed to help the country balance payments and encourage economic reform. The grant agreement was concluded by the acting minister of planning, Samir Qa'war, and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Yuji Ikeda.

The Japanese Government also plans to provide Jordan another grant totalling 14 million U.S. dollars.

The Japanese Government has extended to Jordan 15 million dollars in aid since 1993. [passage omitted]

Israeli Actions, 'Resistance' Operation Reported
NC2303180395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] the Israeli occupation forces today continued their acts of aggression against the southern areas. According to the latest reports from the south, Jabal al-Rafi', the Sujud hills, and the al-Tasah basin came under Israeli artillery bombardment from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. The Israeli positions in 'Ali al-Tahir directed artillery and machine-gun fire at the al-Thuknah quarter in al-Nabatiyah. The bombardment grew in intensity this afternoon and the Israeli forces bombarded the derelict Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqah and the al-Maslakh quarter. The sound was heard far away.

In the meantime, the Israeli positions in al-Shaqif castle raked the outskirts of Yuhmur, al-Shaqif, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' with heavy machine guns.

The Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive device near an agent Lahd [South Lebanese army, SLA] foot patrol on the Dayr Siryan road at 1500 today, killing or wounding several of the patrol.

At 1515, the Islamic Resistance spotted Zionist enemy and agent concentrations in the Sujud and Bi'r Kallab positions and immediately the fire support unit opened up on both positions. The resistance men fired a number of rockets and artillery rounds at the Taw'amat Niha position, which overlooks western al-Biqa'. The SLA radio admitted the shelling but did not report any casualties.

According to security sources, the resistance launched an assault on the Israeli position in al-Dabshah.

The Israeli naval blockade of the southern coast continues for the eighth day in a row. Today an Israeli warship cruised off the coast from south Tyre up to the fishing port in al-Sarafand. The enemy gunboats fired warning shots at the 'Adlun coast. At noon today, a hostile vessel approached to less than 1 km from the southern coast of Tyre. The Lebanese army fired at the cruiser.

Syrian Said Killed in Israeli Shelling

NC2303183395 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, March 23 (AFP)—Israeli gunners killed a Syrian and wounded

three others Thursday [23 March] when they shelled the town of Mashgharah after guerrilla attacks in south Lebanon, police said.

"Syrian workers were hit by shell fire which struck a factory making breeze blocks in the west of the town, not far from a Syrian army post," police said.

The area is a stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizballah, which spearheads resistance to the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon.

The Syrian army is also based in the area north of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Between 300,000 and 650,000 Syrians work mainly in construction and agriculture in Lebanon, where Syria has deployed 35,000 troops.

The shelling spread panic among the residents of Mashgharah. Five houses were damaged and power lines were cut.

Two hours earlier Hizballah shelled Israeli army positions and those of its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the occupied zone but without causing any victims.

The SLA said a rocket exploded by an Israeli tank stationed near al-Dabshah, in the north of the zone.

A Katyusha rocket and four mortars also fell close to an SLA position in al-Ghizlan, in the central sector.

Security sources said five rockets and mortars were fired from al-Nabatiyah, another Hizballah stronghold.

Hizballah claimed the attacks saying it had caused victims in the enemy ranks near al-Dabshah.

Fadlallah Expects 'Heated' Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC2203180395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His eminence 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah expects the new round of talks between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington to be more heated than the previous round, since they will be discussing the political base from which security arrangements will stem. At the same time, Fadlallah ruled out that this round will be better than the previous round as a result of the vital issues that are the objective of this round.

'Good' Results From Christopher Visit; Caution Expressed*MM2303141795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
22 Mar 95 p 2*

[Report by Walid Shuqayr: "Christopher's Mechanism Proceeded From Full Withdrawal 'Hypothesis']

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Official Lebanese sources have said that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz' visit to Damascus and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials the day before yesterday focused on the regional situation, the peace negotiations, and the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, rather than on the domestic situation. [passage omitted]

Other official sources pointed out—despite the blackout by the foreign minister's sources—that "he sensed that Syrian officials believe that what Christopher achieved in his tour is good as regards resuming the contacts and talks between the [Israeli and Syrian] ambassadors. But the positive aspects he achieved are not as substantial as the optimism announced by Christopher. And that this optimism is attributable to his success in drawing up a mechanism for resuming the negotiations, rather than to his achievement of brilliant results vis-a-vis bringing the Syrian and Israeli positions closer."

The official sources told AL-HAYAH that Christopher brought with him something new which helped to define this mechanism, namely his emphasis on the principle of parallel and equal security arrangements on both sides of the border in the event of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, and on the importance of negotiations between the two sides on that basis.

The sources went on to say: "But Syrian officials are not certain whether the Israeli side is committed to Christopher's stress on this principle, or whether the U.S. side raised the idea merely to prompt Syria to resume the negotiations, in order for Israeli negotiators to torpedo or abandon them when it is time to discuss the details and the substance of the steps supporting the principle of simultaneity and equality in this arrangement [security arrangements]."

The official sources pointed out that "Syrian officials informed Minister Buwayz and the other Lebanese officials who have visited Damascus over the past few days that they will be cautious vis-a-vis the Israeli position. And that the agreement to resume the two ambassadors' meetings is aimed at ascertaining Israel's intentions. If it becomes clear that Tel Aviv is willing to discuss matters on that basis, the level of negotiation would be raised to military experts level. This would be determined this week. If it is ascertained that it is possible to develop discussions and achieve progress at these meetings, a meeting would held at chief of staff level to crown the efforts of the experts. Because it is out of the question that Damascus is going to repeat the experience of

sending its chief of staff before ascertaining that Israel actually has the intention to achieve tangible progress."

The official Lebanese sources said that "what can be concluded from Syrian officials' impressions is that the doors of peace are not closed. However, they are not as optimistic as Secretary Christopher about the results of the efforts he made in the region. Because the positive aspect of the resumption of the contacts and the meetings can only be completed when a positive success has been achieved in terms of the substance." [passage omitted]

Commentaries View Peace Process, Israeli Policy**Israeli 'Procrastination' Criticized***JN2303080595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH today discusses regional peace and the Syrian agreement to the resumption of talks at the ambassadorial level in Washington with U.S. sponsorship and participation.

The paper says: This is a new, positive Syrian position designed to help the United States in its endeavors to achieve a positive result for the U.S. initiative. It explains that this Syrian step was welcomed by all world circles interested in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH points out that the Israeli side is still pursuing the policy of procrastination and postponement in an attempt to delude the world into believing that Israel is actually engaged in the peace process. The Israeli tricks, however, will not fool anyone because the room for trickery and evasion of the peace requirements is getting narrower and is about to vanish.

The paper asserts that the issue on the Syrian track is not that of talks, their level, or their venue, but that of peace and of meeting its requirements in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. Such peace will end the state of war and remove its effects. This should be led by withdrawal of the Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The paper says that when this is achieved, the path will be paved without any obstacles, so the security and interest of all will be guaranteed. Otherwise, Israel will be held responsible for the situation at which the peace process could arrive.

'Equal' Security Arrangements Urged*JN2303161095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[Station commentary]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Middle East peace process is still facing a crisis despite the opportunity Syria has offered for the continuation of this process following U.S. Secretary Christopher's recent tour of the region. This is because Israel does not want the peace process to grow and develop on firm and solid ground; that is, the UN Security Council resolutions. Indeed, Israel wants the peace process to be based on disturbed, shaky, and slippery ground; that is, illegitimate gambling on and bargaining over specific resolutions that have only to implemented.

The famous UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 stipulate a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and on all fronts as a basis for peace. These resolutions can be summarized in three words: land-for-peace. However, Israel, which chose to gamble on the stability and prosperity of the region and on the future of peace in it, gave precedence to its expansionist ambitions by intensifying settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territories and by confiscating most of these territories in preparation for their judaization. In addition, Israel is starving the Palestinian Arab people through a barbaric siege, the same siege it is clamping on the Lebanese coasts.

On the Syrian track, Israel has so far failed to understand what the entire world understands; namely, that Syria will not bargain over one grain of its national soil. This is demonstrated by the fact that Israel is talking about partial withdrawals, red lines, painful decisions, or unpopular decisions. We are supplying these Israeli expressions despite their defective nature and without any comment because these expressions cannot withstand the hard and indisputable fact that Israel has no link to even a single grain of the Golan's soil.

The mentality of gambling on the region's peace and stability is also represented by Israel's view of security arrangements. This is because Israel wants to have an edge over Syria in these arrangements, given that Resolution 242 talks about everyone's right to live within secure borders and does not talk exclusively about Israel's right to these secure borders. In other words, this UN Security Council resolution talks about equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements for both sides. Hence, it should be understood that Syria will only accept equal [mutasawiyah] arrangements. If cleaning the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction, for example, guarantees the stability of peace in this region—which is a true—then this is not required from just one side. It is required from both the Arab and Israeli sides together and at one time.

The achievement of peace is not impossible provided that Israel realizes that the peace process cannot grow and develop except on firm and solid ground; that is, the UN Security Council Resolutions, which enjoy the support of the peoples and countries of the world and stipulate full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Syria, which has facilitated the peace process since the beginning and has spared no effort to make it succeed, in return hopes the U.S. partner will work on getting the Israeli position out of the negativeness of slipping away from these international resolutions and into the positiveness of complying with and implementing these resolutions as a basis that must be entrenched if a real and firm peace is to be established in this part of the world.

'Balanced,' 'Parallel' Process Stressed

JN2403095895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Mar 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says: Everyone knows that there are basic components for peace, including justice, comprehensiveness, and an end to all manifestations of occupation. For the peace equation to be correct, peace must have equitable [mutakafi'ah] security factors and balanced and parallel [mutawazinah wa mutawaziyah] arrangements. All parties to that peace must submit to the same criteria in every way.

The paper adds: However, when Israel continues to evade the requirements for peace and avoids compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, when it is the only country in the region to have nuclear weapons—without incurring any pressure from the influential countries to make it abandon that position—this causes an imbalance in the peace equation which, if continued, will make it difficult for the peace process to proceed toward its goal.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has given a great deal for the sake of peace and has spared no effort to achieve it. It has also played a pioneering role and rescued the peace process from collapse, and this fact is acknowledged by the world and the U.S. Administration. Syria stresses that the kind of peace it seeks is that which is based on the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council; the peace that returns all the territory, secures complete Israeli withdrawal, and guarantees security and dignity for all.

The paper notes that the Washington talks at the level of ambassadors will provide the real test for the extent of Israel's commitment to the peace process and its term of reference, as well as the seriousness and effectiveness of the United States to translate the pledges, commitments, and assurances it gave to the Arabs into reality and set a timetable for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Israeli 'Colonialism' Blamed for Bus Operation

JN2303191095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" feature presented by Fayiz Qandil]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: A group of Palestinian militant strugglers this week attacked an Israeli bus that was carrying terrorist settlers to a colonialist site known as Qiryat Arba' near the heroic Palestinian Arab city of Hebron. Two terrorist settlers were killed in the attack and six others were injured, according to Israeli sources. Those sources attributed this daring fedayeen operation—in which the valiant strugglers who carried it out managed to withdraw—to some militant Palestinian factions.

To comment on the Israeli attribution of this operation to some Palestinian Arab group or faction, we will cite a famous statement made by a great nationalist Arab leader on the occasion of a militant action that was attributed to him. This leader said: This is an honor which I do not claim and a charge which I do not deny. This operation is therefore an honorable charge which we do not deny any Palestinian faction. We are pleased to attribute this operation to any faction. We also insist on the responsibility of the heroic Palestinian Arab fighters for defanging Israeli terrorism at a time when some Palestinians do not feel any embarrassment about denouncing the actions of the martyrs and denying them martyrdom.

However, we are not concerned here with the responsibility or role of the Palestinian factions in paralyzing the arm of Israeli terrorism. Rather, we are concerned with Israel's own responsibility for the killing of Israelis at the hands of the Palestinian resistance and even at the hand of other Israeli terrorists, as happened to the Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsmann. This soldier was captured by Palestinian fighters. They did not kill him, but Israel killed him with its own bullets when it stormed his Palestinian shelter. Israel did this when it felt that its pride was piqued, so it refused to release Palestinian prisoners in exchange for releasing the Israeli soldier.

We want here to stress that Israeli colonialism is responsible for the killing of the Israeli terrorists, even if those terrorists were executed by Palestinian bullets. We stress the Israeli responsibility by highlighting the Israeli dark center of terrorism, meaning the so-called Qiryat Arba' near the city of Hebron. In this settlement colony—in fact in this terrorist swamp—lives the murderer pirate Rabbi Hayim Lavinger, who did not hesitate to pull the trigger of his pistol on an eight-year-old Palestinian child.

In Qiryat Arba', this terrorist swamp, the base terrorist, Baruch Goldstein, used to live. He carried out the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre 13 months ago. In this Israeli terrorist swamp, Qiryat Arba', the Israeli invaders held pagan rituals to commemorate that poisonous insect, who used to be called Baruch Goldstein. They celebrated the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and commemorated its perpetrator, Baruch Goldstein.

This Israeli terrorist swamp, Qiryat Arba', was the base the Israeli settler left the day before yesterday, putting on a white dress to commemorate Baruch Goldstein, who was a doctor. However, his profession did not prevent him from committing the massacre. What kind of infamous Israeli doctors are those?

At any rate, this new Baruch Goldstein tried to break into the Ibrahimi Mosque to commit a new massacre. However, the Israeli guards—or rather, the Israeli guarding wolves—captured him so they say they were doing their job. Most probably, we believe, they are collaborators with him and seek to terrorize the Hebron population, who, however, had deadened fear and removed it from their hearts forever. They wanted to terrorize the population of the heroic Palestinian Arab city of Hebron by hinting at a new Israeli massacre.

From this Israeli terrorist swamp, Qiryat Arba', hundreds of Israeli terrorists come out, escorted by the colonialist Israeli army, although those Israeli terrorists are armed to teeth. They come out to wreak havoc in Arab Hebron and its markets and wherever Palestinians earn their living. They come to Hebron to poison the lives of the Palestinian Arab people.

After the massacre, Israel did not dismantle the Qiryat Arba' settlement and did not prevent its base, murderous pirates from carrying weapons. Nor did it use its de facto authority to bridle them in accordance with international law. Rather, it has given those cowardly, mad wolves every assistance to wreak havoc and kill defenseless people and disrupt their lives. In this context, Israel is responsible for immersing the settlers in the swamp of crime and terrorism, something which legitimizes their utter destruction by Palestinian Arab strugglers.

Israel is responsible for importing those terrorists and for teaching them that a good Arab is a dead Arab and that the Arab must be killed anytime, under all circumstances, and without any reason. However, the Israelis and the terrorist Israelis, it seems, do not know the Arabs. They will never know the Arabs at all before the unjust, criminal Israeli terrorists breathe their last by Arab bullets or Arab knives.

Radio Reports al-Shar' Remarks on Nuclear Treaty

JN2403092695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after attending the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states and the Arab League Council in its 103d session in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that the Arab League Council's meetings, which were concluded yesterday, discussed in length all aspects related to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and set the necessary conditions to make this treaty universal, covering all countries in the world—without exception.

In statements to the BBC, al-Shar' said: It is well known that Israel has a nuclear program and nuclear capability and weapons. It must not be excluded from joining this

treaty if we wish to have a Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction—be they nuclear, biological, or chemical.

Asked why the final statement of the Arab League Council session did not refer to the way the Arab states will vote on the extension of the treaty, al-Shar' said: The Arab states will hold consultations with the Nonaligned Movement during a meeting for the Movement's Coordination Bureau, scheduled for April in Indonesia.

India

Threat To Rao's Leadership Viewed

BK2303005495 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 14 Mar 95 p 4

[Article by Suman Chattopadhyaya]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a proverb in English which says: 'Fortune favors the brave'. This means that the goddess of fortune helps the brave. Perhaps, Narasimha Rao cannot be called 'brave'. During the past three years and nine months this proverb has always proved to be wrong in the case of Rao. It will be again proved wrong after the publication of the results of the assembly elections held in five states.

The results of the elections held in these five states will show whether there is any threat to the leadership of Narasimha Rao on the horizon. If there is a repetition of the defeat which the Congress-I suffered in the elections held in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, then it will become impossible for Rao to continue as prime minister or cling to the post of the president of the Congress-I. Of these five states, the results of the state assembly elections held in Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh have not yet been published. The picture so far emerging from the assembly election results of the remaining three states—Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Orissa—shows that it will not be bad for Rao. It cannot be said with certainty whether these results will reduce or increase the threat to Rao regarding his continuation in power.

After the miserable defeat suffered by the Congress-I in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the main allegation of the critics of Narasimha Rao, both within and outside the party, was that the prime minister's economic reforms are responsible for the defeat of the party in the south, which was once an impenetrable fortress of the Congress-I. Economic reforms have distanced the common and the poor people from the Congress-I. As a result of this, the foundation of the support given by the people to the Congress-I has collapsed. The results of the recently held elections in three states have proved that this criticism is not accurate. It has been learnt that in all these states the voters cast their ballots against the party in power in the respective states. The Congress-I government was in power in four of the five states where elections were held. Hence, the Congress-I was the greatest victim of the wrath of the voters. As the people voted against the ruling party, the Janata Dal government of Biju Patnaik lost the assembly elections in Orissa. This shows that the view that the economic policies of Rao are responsible for the reverses suffered by the Congress-I in assembly elections is not totally correct.

There are rumors that the results of the Bihar elections will also follow this pattern. At this moment it cannot be said that the fate of Lalu Prasad Yadav [chief minister] of Bihar will be similar to that suffered by Biju Patnaik in Orissa. It won't be surprising if the performance of the

Congress-I in Bihar is better than that in the past elections. Propaganda has long been spread that the Congress-I will be crushed in Bihar, but if it is possible for the Congress-I to emerge victorious in Bihar this time, then it will be an encouragement for Rao. There are two states in the country where the party in power is not likely to lose the elections. These two states are Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal. Concerned quarters are of the opinion that the Congress-I government in Arunachal Pradesh led by Gegong Apong is likely to continue in power. This means, that Rao can feel proud about the continuance of the Congress-I government in at least one state during the current round of assembly elections.

Under the prevailing circumstances, it will be difficult for the Arjun-Narayan group to be successful in their efforts to remove Rao from the leadership of the party and the government. In fact, it is not the habit of the Congress men to frequently change their leaders. Despite the election reverses suffered in the state assembly elections, the Congress party members have not done anything against their nature. It can be said that the seeds of future success are lying hidden in these failures. Perhaps, this success may be possible in the Lok Sabha elections due to be held after one year. Narasimha Rao can play a trump card keeping the party within his control by giving a call to face the challenge posed by the Arjun-Narayan group. It is clear that Rao will give such a call.

Let us take the case of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. These two states have a tradition of giving two different types of verdict in the state assembly and the Lok Sabha elections. It cannot be said with certainty that the reverses suffered by the Congress-I in the assembly elections held in these states will be repeated during the Lok Sabha elections. It has already become clear within such a short period that it will not be possible for Rama Rao [chief minister] of Andhra Pradesh to fulfill the election pledges which he made before capturing Hyderabad. In this case, the Congress-I can reap benefits from the failures of Rama Rao. On the other hand, the stability of the Devegowda government in Karnataka depends on the cooperation of Rama Krishna Hegde. Hegde is keeping quiet now, but it is known to all that he is opposed to both Devegowda and the Congress-I. Hence, a question remains regarding the permanency of the Janata Dal government in Karnataka.

Similarly, if the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiv Sena combine is ultimately able to form a government in Maharashtra, then it will also be a blessing in disguise for the Congress-I in the near future. It is not necessary to be a political specialist to predict that this alliance of the BJP and Shiv Sena will not last long in Maharashtra. First, this alliance did not get the requisite majority to run the government. This means that they are dependent on external support. Second, the sole objective of the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance is to oppose the Muslims. They are not united on any other issue. This difference of opinion will create a great hurdle in the running of a coalition government. Third, the relationship between

the leaders of the BJP and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra is not at all cordial. Bal Thackeray [chief of Shiv Sena] conducts the affairs of his party like an undisputed dictator. If he tries to do the same with the state government from behind the screen then the alliance is bound to collapse. All this indicates that although the Congress-I has lost in Maharashtra, it will not be a difficult for the party to recapture the state in the near future. Maharashtra is one of the major states in the country where the foundation of the Congress-I is very strong. Despite the anti-establishment campaign, the organizational strength of the Congress-I was responsible for its good performance in the state assembly elections. The Congress-I did not get an absolute majority in the elections, but its performance was not at all bad when compared with the combined seats bagged by the opposition. At least the performance of the Congress-I in Maharashtra was much better than its performance in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

This means that if Rao tries to convince party supporters that in the next Lok Sabha elections the Congress-I will be able to win elections in the states where it lost the assembly elections, then a large majority of the Congress men will believe him. If they are convinced, then there will not be any major challenge to the leadership of Rao. At present there are no signs to indicate that, after learning the results of the recently held assembly elections, a large number of Congress men have started joining or have decided to join the Arjun-Narayan camp. Only a handful of people who were vocal against Rao since the past few months are still doing so. The possibility that Sharad Pawar [former chief minister of Maharashtra], known as a rival of Rao, would quit after failing to keep Maharashtra within his control no longer exists. Rather, it has become clear that Pawar will remain with Rao. It has been a bonus for Rao to get Pawar beside him even after the defeat in the Maharashtra elections.

Besides, Rao can be certain that even outside his party he will get the undeclared and unpronounced support of the leftists. The reason for this support is the rise of the BJP and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and Gujarat. The recently held elections have also proved that the prospects of the Janata Dal becoming the third force in the politics of the country is not at all bright. The role of Janata Dal in the politics of India will diminish if Lalu Prasad Yadav suffers defeat in the Bihar elections. Under these circumstances, the left parties have no other alternative but to back the Congress-I. Perhaps, for this reason the leftists have not yet raised a demand for the holding of interim elections, like the other opposition parties. These parties want to proceed more carefully.

It can be said in brief that Rao's misfortunes are still not totally over, but it is becoming clear that Jupiter will not be very unjust toward him. It is clear the Congress-I will contest the Lok Sabha elections under Rao's leadership. If Rao wishes, he can initiate efforts aimed at making the situation favorable for him. He should overcome all doubts and come forward to strengthen the government

and the party organization. If Rao really possesses the qualities of a leader, then this is the proper time for him to display them. Perhaps this is his last opportunity.

Article Cites 'Shock' of Election Reality

BK2403092095 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English
22 Mar 95 p 8

[Article by Ashok Mitra: "Carrot and Stick: Cutting Corners"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The shock of coming face to face with reality will wear off in due course. We now know what is what; the results of this last round of state assembly polls have merely been a medium of communications. As one hops from one state capital to the next one, from Ahmedabad to Bombay, from Bombay to Bangalore, from Bangalore to Thiruvananthapuram, from Thiruvananthapuram to Madras, from Madras to Hyderabad, from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar, from Bhubaneswar to, yes, Patna, from Patna to Calcutta and so on, the condition of the administration alters, this nation, one is forced to recognise, constitutes an awesome equilibrium of heterogeneous experiences and attitudes of the mind. It would be atrocious to try to coax these diversities fit into one drab unimaginative strait jacket.

True, what motivated the electorate to vote in the manner they did in the recent series of elections was a sullen anger provoked by the pervasive corruption and the hardships the so called economic reforms have inflicted on the common people. The protest has been articulated through a medley of political preferences.

One may or may not like the situation, one many or may not look askance at some of the choices the citizenry have decided upon, but there it is, India has emerged as a coalition of ideas and impulses. Whether it should be a harmonious, tranquil coalition or whether those thrown together as much by history as by geography would engage in unceasing bickering, now and then marked by fisticuffs and worse, is a question difficult to answer at this moment. Much depends upon the reserves of tolerance—and sagacity—the constituents of the seemingly incongruous coalition are able to draw upon.

The matter can however hardly be left hanging loose at a point of indeterminacy. It could be that the pattern currently visible is a transitional phase. Even so, will it be not against nature if the political heterogeneity featuring the states fails to be reflected on the processes at work at the Centre as well? The single party regime that is in situ in New Delhi, there is no question, could not be more unrepresentative of the diversities which at this moment define India. It is a mandateless wonder. It is sheer happenstance that such a one party rule actually did not come to a surcease earlier.

According to a version posted by some analysts, a coalition would have taken shape in the normal course at the Centre following the Lok Sabha elections in 1991; the assassination of a certain political personality while those elections

were still on however interrupted that specific denouncement of history. The scars of that episode have since worn off. The issues at the core of the country's political reality have reasserted themselves; this nation can survive only on the basis of mutual understanding. The administrative postulates which stem from that understanding can be satisfied only by the installation of a working coalition at the Central level.

Barring a force majeure, that is the likeliest outcome of the Lok Sabha polls due in 1996. Should these polls be advanced, the denouncement too is likely to be brought forward. There could nonetheless be problems en route. Persuading the interim regime in New Delhi to accept the nitty gritty of the reality and adjust its functioning accordingly may not be a smooth process. The regime, you and I might say, ought to have the grace to admit that its monolithic structure is a bit of an anachronism; it should therefore, you and I might again say, lie low during the uncomfortable interregnum until it is time to hand the succession to the artisans who hammer out the terms and conditions of a viable coalition.

Striking a balance between conflicting, and often blatantly contradictory, points of view could turn out to be an excruciatingly difficult exercise in the transitional phase. Flying off the handle is however neither here nor there. What is at issue is the survival, no less, of the nation. Perhaps some of the early experiments in New Delhi with a coalition regime will be daunting and even unedifying. Some of these preliminary endeavours, for all one can anticipate, may well be unbearably frustrating. Formations will come together and as easily break up several such formation will perhaps come and go in rapid succession. Such unions and ruptures will be precursors of a deepening confusion in the system.

Optimists need not be altogether absent from the arena though. The initial hiccoughs, they will assert with aplomb, are to fill in a legitimate historical role, which is to spell out the boundary conditions for the efficient functioning of a coalition government. Once these conditions receive the imprimatur of approval from the people, maybe via the verdict at a general election, the Indian nation will be restored to the legacy of her fabled equanimity. Or, rather, it will come to equilibration, really and truly, for the first time.

All this is subject to a couple of provisos.

First, those who have lorded it over the Central administration as a single party entity for nearly half a century could be benumbed by the cultural shock of what is taking place about them; they might therefore be much like a bunch of reluctant journeymen, the implications of the new reality sinking into their consciousness only with a time lag. They could therefore hum and haw for some while, and look around for pretexts and alibis so as to prolong the otioseness of one party rule.

Consider however one unusual situation. A transitional regime at the nation's nerve centre not being quite its

own master can be a real possibility. This regime may indeed be slow to comprehend the harsher aspects of the fast changing landscape; it may, at the same time, have lost its capability, for reasons that need not be gone into, to decide things on its own, directives from some external authority or authorities determine its references. The regime operates without sanction from the people, it knows its days are numbered, and yet it may embark on activities which grossly offend the nation's susceptibilities, because it is under instruction, from outside agencies to indulge in such indiscretions.

We cannot exclude a further possibility. Since hope springs eternal in the human breast, the hangers on in New Delhi may arrange to organise one last big fling. They know the people are angry with the regime, they know the basic issues which have goaded the populace into using their right of franchise as weaponry for revolt. All that may not deter them from embarking on one eleventh hour gimmickry. The basics be damned, the mandateless ones might attempt to convince themselves that cosmetics would help them retain control over the policy. The isolated ramparts of New Delhi, so remotely situated from the life and living of overwhelming sections of the nation, could induce them into the belief that extravaganzas are the reality.

The budget presented last week is obviously the outcome of a hallucination of the kind just described. These are desperate hours. The party is crumbling. Poll reverses have a grim cumulative tale to tell. The economy is going through an uncertain spell. Capital formation is down, the rate of growth over the four years of the so called reforms is disappointing beyond words. Employment, particularly in the organised sector, is shrinking.

Globalisation has created feverish new activity in limited urban quarters, but it is activity sans advance, and it has led to a spawning of inordinately high incomes in the hands of a handful. What is most important prices are behaving in the manner of a rogue elephant on the rampage. The government, flaunting huge revenue and fiscal deficits that are casually linked to its anxiety to placate class brethren, is in fact underwriting the inflation. Price spiralling of this order is anti-growth, anti-employment and anti-exports. Those nominally in authority however no longer control the levers of the economic system. Liberalisation is as liberalisation does.

None can be faulted for nurturing the basic instinct to survive. The budget for 1995-96 cannot but remind one of the shrieks and whines Barbara Stanwyck gave vent to in that famous Hollywood blockbuster *I Want to Live*. The Congress wants to live—and to rule. People have perhaps already made up their mind. Let it not be said though that the party and the government did not make one last, eleventh hour effort to gain a reprieve. The budget, featured by the assorted bribes which it so nonchalantly offers to all and sundry represents a fact of that endeavour. Its central assumption is that people are not hood wink proof. The ensuing seasons will be given over for exploring the legitimacy of the hypothesis.

Iran

Khamene'i Says U.S. Plots, Lies Against Nation

LD2303212895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1700 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Speech by Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to pilgrims at Imam Reza's shrine in Mashhad on 23 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

First of all I would like to congratulate the dear sisters and brothers, the pious and loyal people of the holy city of Mashhad as well as the pilgrims who are spending the new year holidays here, on the New Year. [passage omitted]

As you know governments and regimes which are not supported by their people easily fall prey to America and others. They easily accept their policies. Out of fear and because they don't have popular support. But what can they do to a nation? What could be done with millions of people of a nation? Particularly an awakened nation, a struggling nation, a brave nation, a pious nation, an experienced nation and a tested nation. What can they do with such a nation? [audience chants "Allah Akbar" in support]

This is where the imam [Khomeyni], in reference to American enmity, repeatedly said that America cannot do a damn thing. [audience chants approval]. It cannot do a damn thing because there is a great nation facing it.

My dear ones, the nation has done well regarding things that are obligatory. But there are also things that are forbidden, things that are unlawful in the eyes of the revolution. We must keep these things in view. In the past two or three years, whenever I have had time, I have spoken with the young, with groups interested in the revolution, with the public and at million-strong gatherings about things that must not be done. I will also make a reference here. There are things that should not be done and people must keep well away from them. But some things are seen sometimes that would be better unseen. I referred to one of them in my new year message to the people. Extravagance and waste are among the things that should not be. Of course I understand that a large number of people take note, especially among the middle classes. But some people do not take note and waste. Waste is a swamp. Financial extravagance is an evil temptation. When despite the enemy's trouble-making but—because of the blessing of God's guidance—your country is standing on its own feet like an active, cheerful, and young person in order to revitalize itself and to use its great resources of wealth and when the enemy is watching, understanding and trying to prevent this happening, you should refrain from the smallest thing that might be damaging. Waste is one such thing. Extravagance and greed are another. Greed of

some groups in making illegitimate and unhealthy incomes is another. These things should not exist. [passage omitted]

Today the country is in the process of rebuilding itself. You don't know what the enemy has done to this country. You don't know what they did during the ill-omened rule of the Pahlavi and Qajar, especially during the second part of the Qajar rule. You don't know. They looted all the natural resources and if they could not loot, they destroyed them. The railway that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the generous government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, built and inaugurated with God's blessing a few days ago, is the railway that the country has always needed from the first day that the first railway was built in this country. But no one took any notice for over a century. They built the railway that was needed by the English and the Russians. Reza Khan built the cross-country railway in order to connect the British sphere of influence in Iraq and southern Iran to the Russian sphere of influence in the north. This was the cross-country railway. There was no need for it. If you read the books and the documents about the rule of the Pahlavis and the Qajars, written by foreign travellers and Iranian researchers, you will realize that the railway that the country needed was the one which was inaugurated a few days ago, connecting the most important Iranian port in the Persian Gulf, Bandar-e 'Abbas, to the rest of the country through the center. This was not done for a century. The Islamic Republic did this. There are many things that should have been done.

After the corruptions by the enemies and the minion kings—the Reza Khans [founder of the Pahlavi dynasty] and the Mohammad Rezas [his son], and the ignorant, illiterate, and spineless bullies [reference to the kings] who surrendered to foreign powers and were debauched, during whose rule those devastations were brought about, today the revolution seeks to bring prosperity to this country. The revolution is 16 years of age; eight years of which we were engaged in war. Well, you can see how hard it is to reconstruct the country! How can the country be reconstructed!

Government officials are caring, efficient. And the people are on the scene, with God's grace. Some of those things which must not be done must be observed: those very things that the enemy concentrates on. The enemy wants this country to have inflation. The enemy wishes this country's money to be worthless. The enemies forge Iranian money in order to make it worthless through those known economic methods and formulae. They go that far against this country, this nation, and the economy of this nation. All must be vigilant.

Let me tell you, the Koran has set Satan as the personification of evil and corruption in religious logic. In the logic of revolution there is a Satan which is the personification of evil and corruption and that is the Satan of [World] Arrogance which is the enemy of the revolution.

The most villainous and evil of all Satans is the government of the United States of America. [Crowd chants: "God is Great, Death to America"]

Let all the Iranian men and women know; let each and everyone of the people throughout this country know that there is no enemy more evil and vicious for them than those American officials who are the ringleaders in the American affairs. They are more dangerous than all the rest. They are constantly plotting against the Islamic Republic, against this country, against this nation. Constantly! Of course they constantly come a cropper! Constantly! They do not learn! One of the American presidents sent helicopters inside this country and came face to face with the storm in Tabas; that is the hidden divine army.

What are they on about? Do they know what they are doing? Do they know who they are dealing with? Against whom they are making up this nonsense? Who is going to respond to that? The Iranian nation is a great nation. The Iranian nation is a powerful one, is a united nation, a cultured nation. I wonder how it is that they do not take a lesson from their predecessors and the past 16 years. Constantly they plot against Iran, against the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation and authorities. They make up nonsense, disseminate lies. It makes you wonder! Concerning the Persian Gulf islands; concerning Iran's arms, concerning nuclear energy; concerning chemical weapons. Constantly their leaders, their seniors ...[pauses]... If it were the press, the journalists, one could say that they are journalists; they must tell lies for their daily bread. It is their leaders who tell [lies]; the leaders of their assemblies, their president tells [lies]. One wonders why an administration should fall to such depth and moral bankruptcy so that it falls prey to lying.

I tell them; I tell all the enemies of Iran; I tell all the enemies of the Islamic Republic that this nation is Godly; this nation is self-reliant; this nation relies on Islam and the Islamic Republic; this nation is revolutionary; this nation is the imam's ummah; this nation is unified; this nation supports the country's caring officials. Whoever in the world confronts this nation, those officials will fall! [Crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to counterrevolutionaries," "Death to the hypocrites and Saddam," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] [passage omitted]

Larijani: U.S. Chemical Weapons Accusations 'Lie'

LD2303204295 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1816 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, head of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 23 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Greetings to you, dear viewers. We are here with His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, head of the Foreign Policy

Committee of the Supreme National Security Council. Your Excellency Dr. Larijani, the U.S. defense secretary has recently accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of being a threat to the security of the Persian Gulf waterway. Has Iran been involved in any new move in the region? What do you have to say?

[Larijani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I congratulate all dear compatriots on the New Year. I should mention that the Persian Gulf region is our home. Naturally, its security is a vital issue for us.

The security of the Persian Gulf region is being threatened today, in fact, by the powers who have come to the region to plunder the region's wealth. Their presence in the region is illegitimate. I should clearly say that the security of the Persian Gulf region is threatened today precisely by the illegitimate presence and interference of the U.S. military in the region.

The arrangement and number of our forces in the region are at a very usual and normal level by any standards. There is nothing unusual about them that should create a feeling of insecurity. However, the accusation leveled against Iran by the ignorant U.S. secretary of state about the stationing of chemical weapons in the Persian Gulf region is a very wicked accusation and a loathsome lie.

How could the Islamic Republic—which is itself a primary victim of chemical weapons in the 20th century—be accused when we have been the champion of the campaign against the production, use, and spread of chemical weapons at international levels?

[Correspondent] Thank you. I have another question. What is behind the U.S. propaganda?

[Larijani] The motive for the recent U.S. propaganda is quite clear. First, the Americans want to insinuate the idea—particularly in the minds of our brothers in and around the Persian Gulf—that the region is insecure and that its security is being threatened by Iran. This is so they can justify their presence and the need for turning the region into an arms depot. Second, this is a very old and well-known method used by aggressive powers—particularly the Americans. They begin spreading lies and accusations whenever they want to make mischief in the region—as they see it, to prepare the minds.

I should clearly say that we are quite suspicious of the adoption of such stances and of the spreading of lies by U.S. officials.

[Correspondent] I have a final question. What is the position of the Islamic Republic concerning the U.S. officials' claims?

[Larijani] The position of the Islamic Republic is very explicit and clear. First, as I mentioned, the Persian Gulf region is our home, and the safeguard of its security is more important than any other issue to us. It is a vital issue for us. Second, we believe that it is the foreign forces present in the region that pose a threat to the

region's security. We believe that the presence of the U.S. forces in the region is not legitimate under any circumstances. It is an aggressive presence and, under any doctrine there may be, it is a threatening presence. Third, U.S. politicians and the U.S. Government should have no doubt that the U.S. Government and politicians will be totally responsible for the consequences of any mischievous action they take in this region.

Velayati Says Cooperation With Greece Not Anti-Turk

NC2303161595 Ankara *TURKISH DAILY NEWS* in English 21 Mar 95 p A5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that Iran's cooperation with Greece in the Balkans did not target Turkish interests, the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY reported Monday [20 March]. Velayati underlined that peace in Central Asia and the Caucasus was essential to both Turkey and Iran for their common interests in the region's oil. Adding that Iran was a superpower in that part of the world, the Iranian foreign minister said oil from Azerbaijan helped them reinforce this role and that they were therefore open to business collaboration with Germany in this area as well.

Turkey's Cross-Border Operation Into Iraq Viewed

NC2403073795 Tehran *Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran* in Turkish 1630 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Unattributed commentary: "The Incursion of Turkey's Military Forces Into Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish military forces have entered Iraq. They revealed that they advanced 40 km into northern Iraq on 21 March. Some 35,000 troops supported by Turkish Air Force units are involved in the operation. The military activities are in an area 220 km long by 40 km wide. The objective of the operation is reportedly to annihilate nearly 3,000 Kurdish militants based in northern Iraq.

It has been 48 hours since the cross-border operation against the Kurdish militants began. But Turkish officials have revealed nothing of its outcome. Turkish military officials have said that their units will withdraw to Turkey when they obstruct the Workers Party of Kurdistan's activities. International observers and news agencies have said that the objectives of the cross-border operation are unknown. The large-scale operation, involving a huge military force, has caused global concern. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees reacted in Geneva on Tuesday [21 March] against the detention and transfer of Kurds from Zakho to Turkey. He said: Turkey will create a serious problem if it continues to detain the unarmed Kurds who fled Turkey to northern Iraq in the past.

That has given rise to the question as to whether or not the Turkish officials and military forces have selected the civilian Kurdish people as their target. Undoubtedly, international establishments and the Kurds in Europe may react strongly to Turkey's behavior. Naturally, that will weaken the effort Turkish officials make to solve the problems in their country. Further, the possibility that foreign forces may be prompted by Turkey's operation to interfere in the region's problems must also be considered. That will increase the anxiety in the region.

Arrest of Israeli 'Spy,' Drug Smugglers Reported

NC2303133695 Tehran *ETTELA'AT* in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 2

[Commentary by unidentified ETELA'AT correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Karaj—An Israeli spy and some of his contacts were arrested in Karaj.

This was stated in a news conference by the general director for intelligence of Tehran Province's western district.

He said: Thanks to the anonymous soldiers of the imam of the ages, may God hasten his advent, some 380 kg of morphine and opium were seized from large bands of drug smugglers.

Eleven people who were involved in embezzlement and misappropriation of funds in the Workers' Welfare Bank of Karaj were caught and their cases are being investigated.

The director general for intelligence of Tehran Province's western district stated: This general directorate is present among the people to safeguard security and to confront elements that create insecurity and discontent in society, and it will decisively confront any social ill such as inefficiency, the mistreatment of people and organizations, and bad management.

ETTELA'AT's correspondent reports that a special exhibition depicting the efforts of the general directorate of intelligence of the western district of Tehran Province was held in Karaj. Documents, transmitters and receivers, equipment for coded messages, forged documents, and educational films were shown.

Discord About Marja'iyat Regime's New Predicament

95LA0129B Stockholm *NAMEH-YE MARDOM* in Persian 6 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] At the last moment before the printing of NAMEH-YE MARDOM, the Islamic Republic's media reported the death of Ayatollah Araki in Tehran. Upon announcement of this news, the battle over marja'iyat that had begun weeks earlier between various ruling factions in the Islamic Republic was intensified. Leaders of the regime had prepared a list of

"acceptable candidates" from weeks before. Following this effort, the "Militant Clerics Association" issued a statement announcing the names of six candidates for the position. Among these names, which included Vahid Khorasani, Javad Tabrizi, Behjat, Fazel Lankarani, Makarem Shirazi, and Musavi Zanjani, there was no mention of Khamene'i. This statement demonstrates that despite extensive efforts of ruling leaders and correspondance by Meshkini, the head of Assembly of Experts, with seminary circles, the plan for introduction of Khamene'i as marja' has been defeated. Leaders of the regime have been extremely troubled during the past two days by the fact that the name of Ayatollah Montazeri has come up as one of the candidates with a good prospect for occupying this position. In an open letter distributed in Qom on 9 Azar [30 November] it was claimed that many clerics in the seminary, as well as influential personalities such as Mahdavi Kani, Musa Zanjani, Mohaqeq Damad, Mu'men, Musavi Ardabili, Shams Golpaygani, Taheri Khorran Abadi, Gilani, Khalkhali, 'Aba'i Khorasani, etc., have supported Ayatollah Montazeri.

It is worth mentioning that in recent months, Ayatollah Montazeri issued a strong letter condemning the regime of Islamic Republic as oppressive, authoritarian, and against the objectives of the revolution. He branded any obedience to repressive organs of the regime, such as the Special Clerics' Court, as anti-Islamic.

During the past few weeks, reliable reports have revealed the secret visit of Seyed Ahmad Khomeyni to Ayatollah Montazeri. This explains the serious dilemma facing the regime's leaders with regard to Ayatollah Montazeri and marja'iyat. Based on international mass media reports, Seyed Ahmad Khomeyni visited Montazeri for a second time after the death of Ayatollah Araki and a few members of the Council of Guardians visited Qom too.

As such, it is predicted that within the next few weeks a serious battle on marja'iyat will break out in Tehran and Qom. Unlike Ayatollah Araki, who was never vali-ye faqih, if Ayatollah Montazeri is selected as the marja', Khamene'i's position as vali-ye faqih will be seriously jeopardized.

More Appointments to Various Offices Announced

95LA0123E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
21 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] IRNA reports that Mohsen Rafiqdust, the head of the Foundation for the Oppressed, has been reappointed to this position by the esteemed leader of the revolution for two more years.

He was appointed to this position by Ayatollah Khamene'i for the first time on 6 September 1989 for three years and was reappointed a second time on 6 September 1992 for two years.

Dr. Hoseyn Malek Afzali, vice minister for public health at the Ministry of Health, issued an order appointing Dr. Samad Asadpur as director general for nutrition, health, and family planning.

Dr. Baqer Larijani, vice minister for student, cultural, legislative, and Majles affairs at the Ministry of Health, issued separate orders appointing Dr. Zia'oldin Tabe'i as the head of the Center for Medical Ethics, Dr. Mostafa Mohaqeq as director general of student affairs, and Esma'il Esma'ili as deputy vice minister for welfare funds.

Dr. Hoseyn Malek Afzali, vice minister for public health at the Ministry of Health, issued an order appointing Dr. Samad Asadpur as director general for nutrition, health, and family planning.

Paper on New Publication Close to Rafsanjani

95LA0129H London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jan 95
p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] The two dailies close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the English newspaper IRAN NEWS and the Persian newspaper IRAN, planned to be published simultaneously in Tehran. While IRAN NEWS has been published for a few months, it is rumored that the decision to publish IRAN has been cancelled. But an announcement about publication of IRAN on the Islamic Republic radio and television has ended the rumor. Therefore, one of these days a new daily will appear on newsstands.

Informed observers state that publication of IRAN is not unrelated to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's failure to amend the Constitution and succeed in a third term as president. They believe that Hashemi-Rafsanjani was prepared to stop the publication of this daily if his opponents had not put obstacles in the way of his efforts to become president for a third four-year term. But his opponents did not compromise, prompting Hashemi-Rafsanjani to clearly announce that he opposed modification of the Constitution just so he could be president for a third term. (The Constitution of the Islamic Republic states that an individual is not allowed to be president more than two consecutive terms.)

But Hashemi-Rafsanjani is worried that, upon the end of his presidency, he will be in a very weak position against his opponents. Therefore, he intends to minimize the damage by controlling two dailies. His calculation is that his opponents will use the mass media against him, especially because he and his family are involved in all major businesses, and it is not unlikely that he may be dragged into judicial courts.

Also, it looks like his opponents are trying to destroy this defensive mechanism. Consequently, in an article in RESALAT, entitled "Who Must Respond?" it was said: "No government agencies or offices, except the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, is allowed to publish a newspaper." The article questions the legality of issuing a permit for publication of IRAN.

In the same article, the mayor of Tehran was also attacked for publishing HAMSHAHRI, which it called illegal. It is worth mentioning that this newspaper, which

is inexpensive to buy and has superior print quality and entertaining contents, has won the competition with all other dailies.

New Morning Daily IRAN Published

95LA0129L London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Since last Saturday (1 Bahman [21 January]), the IRAN newspaper appeared as a morning publication. This daily, with the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY [IRNA] as its proprietor, like HAMSHAHRI, is published in color. In its first issue, it is said that the name IRAN was chosen because the country needs unity to defend its identity and culture against the increasing hostility of its enemies, especially the cultural onslaught by the West.

IRAN states that it is a cultural, social, political, and economic daily and that it is loyal to the principles of the Islamic revolution. According to informed sources in Tehran, this daily represents Hashemi-Rafsanjani's efforts to counter his opponents. Some months ago, London KEYHAN printed the news of this upcoming new daily, which is supported by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. But, his opponents are not compromising. The faction known as Resalatis (led by Azari Qomi) has asserted that publication of IRAN is against the law because government agencies are not permitted to publish newspapers, unless it is necessary to do so.

Meanwhile, PAYAM EMRUZ [Current Message] magazine in Tehran reported that 47 publications, including EQTESAD-E HAFTEH [Weekly Economics], DAR-ICHEH GOFTEGO [A Window to Conversations], and the monthly publication HAMSHAHRI, have not been published regularly due to financial and other problems. As a result, their permits for publication have been revoked.

Along with IRAN, two other new dailies have been added, namely, KHABAR [News] managed by Hasan Rowhani, the deputy speaker of the Majles and secretary general of the National Security Council, and 'ASR-E MA [Our Era], an organ of the organization, the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution.

HAMSHAHRI Newspaper Threatened With Closure

95LA0129K London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] HAMSHAHRI is still threatened with closure and the tension between the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the mayor of Tehran has reached crisis levels. Asha'ri, the deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance for press issues, said that the law banning unnecessary publications includes publications by mayoral offices. He stated that this law was approved in the Majles and covers mayoral offices, and the HAMSHAHRI newspaper has been informed of the law.

In its response, HAMSHAHRI said that the law is not retroactive.

The deputy minister for press issues added: We believe that the law covers mayoral offices, but because of some doubts, we have written to the vice president for legal affairs to inquire on this issue.

Asha'ri said: To resolve this issue and decide on the status of HAMSHAHRI, the other alternative is to ask the Majles again to rule on the issue. He emphasized that, upon receiving a response from the office of the vice president for legal affairs or the Majles, the status of HAMSHAHRI will be clarified.

Former Central Bank Official Released From Prison

95LA0129F London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Asghar Fakhrieh Kashan, the Central Bank's deputy governor, who was accused of violations and arrested some time ago, was released last week.

He was in charge of foreign exchange affairs at the Central Bank and was accused of a series of violations and involvement with major foreign exchange dealers, which led to his arrest. For a while in the past, he was also the deputy in charge of international affairs at the Central Bank. For three years, he was a member of the executive committee of the Bank.

Law Relaxed on Continuing Studies Abroad

95LA0129G London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Individuals interested in graduate studies for a master's degrees or PhD are permitted to go abroad, if they pay their own expenses, without being required to perform military service.

The Ministry of Higher Education has announced that, due to increasing applications for studies abroad, a set of regulations has been enacted, the most important article of which states that applicants for graduate studies abroad must pay for their own expenses. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from a university in Iran or abroad, and their score on the English test "TOFEL" must be a minimum of 550. Those applicants who secure scholarships from foreign universities are not required to take the test. Those applicants who pass the test, will be given 18 months to secure admission to a foreign university and leave Iran. The Ministry of Higher Education has not set any age conditions. Individuals who pay for their own expenses will be given an exemption from military service and the ministry will assist them in obtaining passports and visas. Such individuals will be able to visit Iran a few times each year.

The Ministry of Higher Education will assist in securing visas and help families of applicants to travel. Foreign exchange needs of such individuals will be met through major banking institutions.

Also, the Ministry of Higher Education will arrange a postponement of required work service for individuals who have received financial assistance for their undergraduate studies.

Those individuals who study abroad must agree to work in Iran for as many years as they spend abroad. To guarantee their return, collateral must be provided as follows: 1 million tumans for securing exemption from military service, 1 million tumans for postponement of required work service for financial assistance already received, and 2.5 million tumans for foreign exchange facilities.

Majles Fire, Destruction of Historical Effects

95LA0129D London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Jan 95
p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that information on the extent of damage from the fire at the Majles building and its cause will not be made public. The regime's dailies reported that 70 percent of the Majles building, which is among the most important cultural landmarks in Iran, has been burned. But the reported cost of damage does not agree with the extent of damage itself.

It is depressing to witness the destruction and looting of historical landmarks in Iran. This destruction rivals the one in Afghanistan, except that Afghanistan is faced with a vicious civil war.

Expert observers testify that the destruction of so many important historical and ancient artifacts during the past few years in Iran surpasses the destruction that took place during the war with Iraq. An individual letter to SALAM in Tehran (16 Azar [7 December]) states: "Since there has been no resolution or announcement of the results of inquiries into the fire that burned the library at the college of literature in Isfahan, the crash of several passenger airplanes, export of thousands of precious historical and ancient pieces of artifacts (including large stone segments from Persepolis), etc., we insist that the perpetrators of this recent incident be identified and made known to the nation."

Perhaps some people have not forgotten that about seven or eight years ago, when two truckloads of pure gold left Iran, the responsible officers of the gendarmerie discovered the gold and delivered it to the central headquarters. But, it turned out to be bronze, then copper, and finally "a strange amalgam of metals." People pointedly called that incident "reverse alchemy."

Since that theft took place years ago, some people may not remember it. But, decapitation and theft of the head of the statue of Rostam, Iran's epic hero, which happened only last year, has not faded from memory.

Tehran's Population Tops 11 Million

95LA0129C London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Jalil Seyedzadeh, governor of Tehran, announced last Tuesday (23 December) that the

population of Tehran has reached 11 million. He explained the reason for rapid population increase in the capital as an exodus of millions of people from other cities to Tehran in search of work. The population of Tehran has doubled during the past eight years.

One Million People Infected With Tuberculosis

95LA0129I London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Health centers involved in the treatment of tuberculosis have given a figure of 250,000 as the number of people infected with this disease. But, a health official, who preferred to remain anonymous, has told SALAM that the real figure is much greater and is estimated to be 1 million.

Also, he said that not only are the lives of those who have not been diagnosed in danger, but they also pose a risk to others because tuberculosis is contagious in a variety of ways.

The same daily reports that during 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] the number of reported cases was 20,000, but the number is presently 10 times more. "If this trend continues, the elimination of this disease will become more difficult with every passing day."

The health official said: Treatment of tuberculosis is expensive because a patient must be under medication for months and may need to be quarantined. He said: Because such patients are mostly from the low-income strata in society, treatment has become a major difficulty in Iran to the extent that one may reasonably say that elimination of this disease is impossible.

***Domestically Produced Medicines To Enter Market**

95LA0098F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the cancer drug made at the Drug Research and Distribution Center have so far been successful for 60 types of cancer. In the future this drug will be tested on 140 more diseases, and if results are obtained it will be put on the nation's drug market.

In an interview with KEYHAN, Dr. Mohammad Esma'il Zolfaqari, supervisor of the Drug Research and Distribution Center, announced the above. He added: The herbal drug mirtoplex [word as transliterated], which is anti-viral and anti-fungus and is an effective treatment for cold sores, has recently been marketed by this center. The salve fanito'in [word as transliterated], which treats skin injuries, will be on the market by the end of this year [20 March 1995], and enksolon [word as transliterated] cream, which is derived from the juice of sweetroot and which treats swelling and skin sensitivity, will be on the market next year.

Dr. Zolfaqari said that research has been completed on the heart drug nitrindipin [word as transliterated], which is taken once every 24 hours, and that by the end of this

year it will be given to the Tamad Drug Distribution Factory for mass production. He added: For the first time in the world aspirin that does no harm to the digestive system has been produced in a new formula with the cooperation of this center and a group of university researchers. After a license is obtained, mass production will begin next year by the drug distribution factory. This drug has various pain-relief applications, especially seasonal pain, swelling, and fever. The possibility of its causing heart attacks has also been reduced.

He cited the chemical anti-viral drug bitomiacin [word as transliterated], the injected anti-swelling and pain-killing drug cortini [word as transliterated], and the heart treatment drug derived from fetalaminidone [word as transliterated] as other projects underway at this center. He said: The Drug Research and Distribution Center has so far provided the nation's drug industries with more than 100 drug formulas. Drug formula research into drugs that have long-term effects is another of this center's activities. Last year alone more than 14 drug formulas were given to the drug-manufacturing factories, especially the Drug Distribution Factory, and the relevant drugs will go on the nation's market in the near future.

Dr. Zolfagari discussed the fact that 14 generic and new drugs have been synthesized by this center. With regard to herbal medicines, he said: Formulas have been prepared for six herbal medicines in the areas of respiratory illnesses, chlorosis, high blood pressure, and digestive illnesses. They will be made available to the drug manufacturing factories by the end of this year, and they will be marketed as various kinds of drugs after licenses are obtained.

Rise in Tehran's Retail Prices Recorded

95LA0128B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jan 95
p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] IRNA—The retail rates increased on 10 consumer and food items on Thursday (6 Bahman [26 January]) compared to last Thursday (29 Dey [19 January]), while the rates on 17 products remained stable.

IRNA reports from the city of Tehran that this week sugar cubes, powdered and machine laundry detergent, and half-kilograms of Bahareh tea were selling at the approved price in the large stores and retail shops, and imported cheese was available in limited amounts at 2,240 rials [R] (approved price) per kilogram at some retail shops.

At the same time solid vegetable shortening in 4.5 kilogram sizes was sold at R2,500 to R2,600.

This week the price of chick peas increased 25 percent, split peas increased 19 percent, chicken increased 16.8 percent, imported cheese increased 15.8 percent, eggs increased 5.7 percent, Thai rice increased 2.8 percent, American rice increased 2.7 percent and Iranian rice, Iranian cheese and tomato paste increased 2.1 percent.

Product	Quantity	Thursday 29 Day	Thursday 6 Day
Iran Bahareh tea	half kilo	1,900	1,900
Iran Red tea	half kilo	6,000	6,000
Chicken	kilogram	3,100	3,600
Mutton	kilogram	6,000	6,000
Beef	kilogram	6,500	6,500
Average Iran tea	kilogram	2,300	2,350
American rice	kilogram	1,850	1,900
Thai rice	kilogram	1,750	1,800
Cane sugar	kilogram	1,210	1,210
Sugar cubes	kilogram	1,260	1,260
Sugar	kilogram	1,100	1,100
Veg. shortening	2.5 kilos	10,500	10,500
Lentils	kilogram	2,100	2,100
China beans	kilogram	1,950	1,950
Chick peas	kilogram	2,000	2,500
Split peas	kilogram	2,100	2,500
Imported cheese	kilogram	3,660	4,240
Avg. Iran cheese	kilogram	4,600	4,700
Imported butter	kilogram	[price not given]	
Pasteurized butter	100 grams	[price not given]	
First quality tomato paste	per can	2,300	2,350
Second quality tomato paste	per Can	2,100	2,100
Eggs	1 carton	3,500	3,700
Detergent Powder for hand-washed clothing	480 grams	900	900
Washing machine detergent powder	500 grams	1,200	1,200

Pakistan

Bhutto on Illegal Arms, Extradition Policy

BK2303151195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpts] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari decorated 28 military and 82 civil awards to recipients at an impressive ceremony at Aiwan-i Sadar [President House] in Islamabad this afternoon. Awards have been given in recognition of their meritorious services in various fields. The ceremony was also attended by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reaffirmed her government's resolve to gear up administration for wiping out proliferation of illegal arms from the country. She was talking to newsmen at Aiwan-i Sadar in Islamabad this evening after the investiture ceremony. The prime minister declared that display of arms would not be allowed and anyone found involved in it would be brought to book without any loss of time.

To a question, she pointed that terrorism was a global problem and not confined to any one country. She emphasized that the world as a whole would help to make joint efforts to bring this menace to an end. Pakistan, on its part, will not allow any refuge to terrorists. She said anyone indulging in any terrorist act abroad and then taking refuge in Pakistan would be handed over to the country concerned for trial. Similarly, she said, if any Pakistani had absconded to any other country, [he] will be brought back to Pakistan for necessary legal action.

On 'Terrorist' Conspiracies, U.S. Ties.

BK2303161895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Benazir Bhutto emphatically stated that, now, some terrorist forces are trying to draw Islam and Christianity against one another after the downfall of communism. She said these terrorist forces want to halt economic development in Islamic countries. Therefore, it is time now to wipe out the conspiracies of these terrorist forces once and for all.

In reply to another question, the prime minister said the relations between Pakistan and the United States are based on principles, and principles [which] will not, [at] any cost, be compromised.

Editorial Condemns 'Iran-Bashing' Policy of West

BK2203090695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US Defence Secretary is currently touring the Middle East ostensibly to tell the Gulf states how to address their security concerns. That is his expressed intention, which is not likely to deceive anyone since his real aim is to whip up hysteria against Iran, scare the Arab into shelling out dollars to pick up obsolete military hardware. After the destruction of Iraq (not dictator Saddam!), the next target of American aggression is Tehran. Ever since the successful completion of the operation Thunder Storm, Washington has launched a campaign of hatred against a fraternal Islamic country which has done no harm to any state. Mr Perry is hoping to build a coalition of powers similar to the one created against Baghdad. The long-term American objective in the region is not to allow any country to become powerful enough to stand up to Israeli or US hegemony. There have been only two states which had the potential to challenge the domination of Washington

in this region-Iraq and Iran. The first has been reduced to rubble and the second one is going to be the target of US aggression.

Mr Perry's visit was apparently prompted by some minor dispute between a Gulf state and Tehran, but no one had asked Perry to barge in. Left to themselves, the parties could reach an amicable solution through third parties in no time. That, however, would not suit the American game plan which is to manufacture excuses for destroying the economic and military potential of that country.

There is enough circumstantial evidence to suggest that this superpower is in a hurry to move against Tehran. It reckons that an early preemptive strike would be relatively less costly. Israel is being prepared to launch aerial strikes at the military installations of Iran. Already there are informal sanctions in place against that country. Inventing tensions in the region also serves American Defence Industry in a big way.

Iran is fully alive to the dangers that lie ahead. It is a nation tempered by wars and hardship and knows how to preserve its dignity and sovereignty. Tehran will certainly be a tough nut to crack for Western warlords. What concerns Pakistan most is the response of the Ummah to the economic and military aggression against Tehran. Here, one is worried about the gap between the policies of the governments and popular perceptions in the Muslim countries. It would be unwise on the part of the ruling elite of Islamic states to ignore the depth of popular anger and misgivings about Washington's aims in this region. By aligning themselves with the West against rising Muslim powers, they will jeopardise their own future.

If our foreign policy is to reflect the broad wishes of people, we should disassociate ourselves from Iran-bashing policies of the West and express strong solidarity with our neighbour. One is apprehensive that sectarian tensions in Pakistan are promoting American interests in a powerful way because they could dilute strong grass-roots sympathy for Iran in this country. Washington could not be unhappy to see the overseas fallout of domestic sectarian divide.

Leghari Speaks at National Day Celebrations

BK2303112095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0422 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Speech by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the Pakistan Day celebrations at Shahrah-i Quaid-e-Azam Road in Islamabad—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parade Commander Brigadier Hamed Rabnawaz, officers, junior commissioned officers, dauntless soldiers, distinguished guests, and my dear countrymen, peace be upon you. This armed forces parade being held on the occasion of Pakistan Day is reflective of the beloved country's sovereignty. It also heralds our independence and symbolizes our resolve to

sacrifice our lives to protect the country, which we realized with great sacrifice, and to work untiringly for its construction and development and dignity and honor. On this day we pay tribute to the great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah, father of our nation, whose unprecedented leadership and courage turned us into an illustration of unity, determination, sacrifice, and discipline at a time when we were afflicted by chaos and frustration. Jinnah's leadership shattered the insolence of those who ignored the Muslim nation and led to the creation of a new country by defying the resistance and diverting the turn of the history. By the grace of God, in that country we can live our collective life in accordance with our values, wishes, and aspirations.

This is a day to show gratitude to the sincere workers of the Pakistan Movement. We salute them and make a pledge that we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to include Pakistan—the country of their dreams—among the ranks of great countries of the world. The bright faces of the officers, the junior commissioned officers, and soldiers clearly manifest their determination and courage. Their alertness and combative look and the glow of their military hardware reflect the high standard of the parade and their professional confidence. I express my sincere congratulations to the parade commander and organizers for arranging such a grand parade.

With the help and support of God, the merciful, we have been successful in securing the independence; however, the struggle to protect the country's independence and its security and the construction and development of the beloved motherland is still continuing. Protection of the country's security and independence, as all of you know, is above everything else.

From the very beginning, Pakistan has been facing external dangers. Therefore, defense has always been the first of our national priorities. Even today, we are fully aware of this responsibility of ours. In this context, we are facing the difficulties caused by the uncertainty in world politics and our resource constraints. Despite this, the nation is resolute in its determination, and the morale of our brave forces is invincible. Our people are patrons of the protectors of their country and are always ready to make any sacrifice.

In keeping with the wishes and desires of the people, the government is taking all possible efforts to ensure a strong and effective defense of the country. The armed forces are also fulfilling their responsibility with full sincerity, zeal, and attention. We believe not only in a strong defense but in an invincible defense. We want to equip our armed forces—who are very acclaimed for their firm faith in God, the spirit of jihad and professional expertise—with most modern weapons so that they can turn themselves into a shield against the enemy's everincreasing military might and to give a befitting reply if the enemy dares carry out an aggression.

Dear countrymen, if we assess our collective performance in the light of the objectives for the establishment

of Pakistan, then we will find our shortcomings in several respects. However, instead of being disappointed at our failures, we should close our collective ranks to work in the spirit of the Pakistan Movement to achieve our national objectives. The need to seek the guidance from Jinnah's ideal—that is faith, unity and discipline—today has never been so intense. If we adopt these principles, then we will very soon be able to make Pakistan a real developed Islamic welfare state that will uphold social justice and prosperity of the people along with economic development.

Dear countrymen, thank God that despite all the shortcomings, a democratic system prevails in the beloved motherland. Political differences and constructive criticism are reflective of the democratic way of life; we should not be worried about them. Because, with the democratic thoughts taking roots, political reconciliation and toleration will also be established, and individual differences will then turn into guarantees for the protection of collective interests.

Dear countrymen, it is very pleasant for us that a complete consensus prevails in the entire Pakistani nation on the most important national issues. A complete consensus exists in the whole country and the nation, regardless of what government is in power or what party in opposition, on the Kashmir problem, our nuclear program, our national defense interests, and our major economic policies. On this important national day, I earnestly appeal to all politicians and political parties of the country not only to maintain a complete consensus on all national issues, but also to express it as well so that the pace of our development can be expedited, national objective quickly realized, and our standing and dignity outside the country enhanced.

Dear countrymen, in the economic sphere, we have taken far-reaching decisions. With the adoption of free market economy, which promotes the trend of competition and progress, there is a record increase in foreign investment, which is extremely beneficial to our national economy. The government has also formulated constructive plans for the speedy development of education, health, and social welfare sectors. Keeping in view the exigencies of the coming century, changes are being effected in every sector to harmonize economic and social development with present-day needs and to lay a foundation for a prosperous future.

Pakistan is a peace-loving country and believes in peaceful coexistence. We respect the UN charter and international laws and abide by the principles of equality among countries and noninterference in internal affairs. We oppose any kind of aggression, expansionism, and regional hegemony. We believe in the right of self-determination of nations. Pursuing this principle, we have always supported the inherent and basic right of self-determination of the Palestinian and Kashmiri brothers and will continue to do so. Kashmir is not a border dispute between India and Pakistan. It is a

humanitarian and moral issue. It is an issue of fundamental and political rights. It is an issue that needs to be resolved in the spirit of the UN resolutions. It is regrettable that due to India's arrogance and rejection of the UN resolutions, this issue still remains to be resolved. The people of occupied Kashmir have been fighting for their rights during the past several years. All freedom-lovers of the world salute them for their sacrifices and for their determination and the courage with which they have been facing the atrocities and barbarity. The way India is carrying out atrocities with the help of its 600,000 troops in Kashmir and the massive way it is violating human rights is a challenge to the world's conscience. We have always extended moral and political support to our Kashmiri brothers. We have raised our voice at every international forum to support them. God willing, we will continue to do so. The unanimous resolution at the Casablanca Islamic Conference, which was adopted as a result of the efforts of Pakistan, is an important diplomatic success. We are confident that the moral efforts of the people of Kashmir and the people of Pakistan will succeed and our Kashmiri brethren themselves will be able to decide their destiny very soon.

We are proud of our armed forces. They have demonstrated excellent capabilities even in extremely difficult circumstances. Their determination, courage, patriotism, and sense of sacrifice are the best assets of the country. They have not only proved their valor on the battlefield but have won the hearts of their countrymen during peace time, too, by fulfilling their duties and sincere contribution as always. The manner in which

they rendered services to their countrymen during natural calamities, mishaps, and emergency situations of every sort is itself a mark of distinction to them. On national development activities also, the armed forces of Pakistan have always rendered a helping hand to the government. At the international level, our forces have proved their military capabilities and spirit of sacrifice through their effective efforts for the establishment of peace under the aegis of the United Nations and by providing assistance on humanitarian grounds. After discharging their duties in Somalia for two and a half years, our military contingents have returned home recently. Now, their colleagues are busy in their efforts to establish peace and providing assistance in Bosnia. We are glad that distinguished guests from our fraternal countries are present among us today. Thank god, full efforts are being made to promote economic and social welfare programs as also to promote culture in all the provinces of the country. Today's parade will show certain colorful aspects of our culture and will reflect the ongoing developmental activities. These different aspects of our culture are like various flowers that blossom in the garden, which add beauty. This diversity begets unity whose name is Pakistan, which is the nucleus of our dreams and the axis of our aspirations. Today, let us take a pledge that we will work shoulder to shoulder as well as day and night for the progress and well being of our beloved country by eliminating all sorts of regional, linguistic, and group differences and divisions to put our beloved Pakistan at the earliest among the most developed countries of the world. May God support and help all of us. Amen. Long live the armed forces of Pakistan. Long live Pakistan. [applause]

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